



The Future of Library Collections

Inside this Issue:

Data, Discernment and Demand: How Library Collection Decision-Makers are Embracing the Futurep. 6

Digitizing Unique Local History: Washington Rural Heritage.....p. 12

Meet Your New Washington State Librarian.....p. 26





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Table of Contents

Alki The Washington Library Association Journal

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"Alki," a Native American word meaning "by and by," was suggested by Nancy Pryor, Special Collections at Washington State Library, as the title for the Washington Library Association's journal. "Alki" is also the state motto, signifying a focus on the future.

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Alki's purpose is to communicate philosophical and substantive analyses of current and enduring issues for and about Washington libraries, personnel, and advocates, and to facilitate the exchange of research, opinion, and information.

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Up Front

The Social Media Connected Collection 4
By Brianna Hoffman

From the Editor 5

The Future of Library Collections

Data, Discernment and Demand: How Library Collection Decision-Makers are Embracing the Future 6
By Sheri Boggs

A Tale of Two Hotspot Lending Programs 8
By Kate Sellers, Toby Thomas and Lisa Fraser

Picture This: Adapting Library Collections to Increase Patron Usability 11
By Chanteal Craft

Digitizing Unique Local History: Washington Rural Heritage 12
By Sarah Morrison and Kristie Kirkpatrick

The Impact of Weeding on the Future of Your Library's Collection 15
By Tami Echevarria Robinson

In Demand: Sno-Isle Libraries and the New Rules of Acquisition 17
By Mike Hawkins

Pondering the Future: Video in the Library 19
By Kati Irons Perez and Conan McLemore

Curating Collections by Curating Connections: How to Increase the Use and Usefulness of Institutional Repository Content 22
By Sean Lind

Jumping into Nontraditional Collections 23
By Lisa Gresham and Mary Kinser

Libraries x OER = Equity + Access in Education 25
By Craig Seasholes

Articles

Meet Your New Washington State Librarian 26
By Frank Brasile

Safety in Numbers: Helping People with Health Numeracy Challenges (Which is All of Us) 28
By Ann Glusker

Reader's Choice with the Pacific Northwest Library Association 31
By Brianna Hoffman

Linking the Washougal Community through Our Libraries 33
By Hillary M. Marshall

Books A'Sail – A Book Group on the High Seas 34
By Andrea Gough

WLA Communiqué

People and Places 35

Read This Book! News and Opinions by Teacher-Librarians

Let's Get "Series-ous": Feeding the Need to Know – Big Ideas in Small Bites 36
By Puget Sound Council for Review of Children's and Young Adult Literature

I'd Rather Be Reading

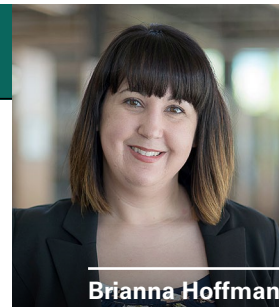
That's My Story, And I'm Sticking to It 38
By David Wright

Dispatches from Swellville

From the Desk of Agnes T. Gollywhopper 39
By Darcy McMurtery

The Social Media Connected Collection

by Brianna Hoffman



Social media can be a great thing. It's a wonderful tool for keeping in touch with friends and family, or for reconnecting or rekindling relationships previously lost. Another great way to use social media is extending your professional network. I am a huge Twitter user for this very reason. I have met so many librarians from all over the country that I have been able to add to my professional network. I have also been fortunate to attend regional and national conferences where I have been able to connect with these people "IRL" (In Real Life). There is a strong librarian contingent on Twitter, or "Librarian Twitter," as they're sometimes referred to. One particular thing that I love about Librarian Twitter is the sharing and engagement. When it comes to collections, hashtags like #collectiondevelopment and #readersadvisory are great resources to see what other librarians are up to and what books they are adding to their collections or recommending to their patrons. Accounts like @earlyword (earlyword.com) are great for getting word of the latest titles, and @bookriot (bookriot.com) always has great books lists – particularly young adult booklists – of diverse titles. Another favorite hashtag is #AskALibrarian, which takes place every Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00am, but it is a great tag to check out any time. This tag was originally started by *Library Journal*, but it is so much fun to see librarians from all over offering their reading recommendations.

Another great use for "Library Twitter" is library display ideas. A quick search of "library display" will yield you several results, usually

with pictures. Librarians are a very creative bunch, and I've gotten so many ideas that I've admittedly borrowed and tweaked to fit my own library. I've seen some really great displays in the last few months. Along with the expected autumn-themed displays, I have seen some great ones that feature voting and government information, wonderfully creative Banned Books Week displays, and a recent personal favorite, "Hamilton's Homies" at the Skokie Public Library, celebrating the Chicago opening of the Hamilton musical. October brought out all of the "spooky" and horror-themed displays, which are always so much fun to scroll through. One spooky display I saw featured '80s titles that were inspired by the Netflix sensation, "Stranger Things." The most creative, man-I-wish-I-thought-of-that October display idea I saw is an 'Octo-ber' display featuring books on octopuses, spiders, squids and sea monsters. Like I said, librarians are a creative bunch!

As we look to the future of our library collections, we should be looking at creative ways to build those collections. Social media sites like Twitter are virtual (get it, virtual?) goldmines for inspiration. Stepping outside of the

traditional collection development box is a great way to enhance your collection as well as a way to expand your knowledge and network. Being a part of "Librarian Twitter" has given me so many ideas and colleagues that I would not have otherwise. It has been an easy and accessible way to keep up with cutting-edge library news and activity as well as professional opportunities. What will you find on the Twitter-sphere? 📖



Skokie Library
@skokieliibrary

"I never had a group of friends before, I promise that I'll make y'all proud." Our Hamilton's Homies display



Tweet of Hamilton display at Skokie Library

Brianna Hoffman is president of WLA.



Frank Brasile

At the Seattle Public Library (SPL), we are revamping our collection development plan for the first time in nearly 15 years. In 2002, there were no eBooks or eAudiobooks; DVDs were emerging alongside VHS as the preferred format for films; digital resources were limited to periodical databases; and library collections housed what we now view as “traditional” resources like books. Who would have envisioned that libraries would be lending the internet through mobile hotspots? Who would have thought of circulating musical instruments like University Prep’s ukulele collection? Did anyone think that coloring books for adults would be the craze that it is today? Could anyone have thought that something like Playback, SPL’s online collection of music from local bands that can be streamed and downloaded, could exist? Even three years ago, some of these were unimaginable, yet here they are, thriving alongside traditional resources — the books that patrons continue to identify as an essential component of libraries.

Welcome to the supersized fall issue of *Alki*, where we consider the future of library collections. Sheri Boggs surveyed library leaders throughout the state to see how they are planning for the future (p. 6). Kate Sellers, Toby Thomas and Lisa Fraser compare hotspot lending programs at SPL and King County Library System (KCLS) (p. 8) and Kati Irons Perez and Conan McLemore ponder the future of video in the library (p. 19). Sarah Morrison and Kristie Kirkpatrick look at digitizing rural history collections at the North Olympic Library System and Whitman Rural Library (p. 12). Tami Echevarria Robinson examines the impact that evolving collections has on weeding (p. 15) while Mike Hawkins shares his initial findings for Demand Driven Acquisition of eBooks at Sno-Isle Libraries (p. 17). The reclassification of picture books at KCLS is described by Chanteal Craft (p. 11) and Whatcom County Public Library’s Lisa Gresham and Mary Kinser discuss the nontraditional items they’ve added to their collections (p. 23).



University Prep Library Director Anne Bingham, pictured with ukulele.

Sean Lind celebrates connections in the making as institutional repository content is digitized at Central Washington University (p. 22) while Craig Seasholes extols the virtues of Online Education Resources (p. 25).

Cindy Aden takes the helm as the Washington State Librarian, and find out what’s in store on page 26. Ann Glusker educates us on the importance of health numeracy (p. 28) while collaborative efforts yield results for Brianna Hoffman in discussing the Readers’ Choice Awards (p. 31) and Hillary M. Marshall reveals symbiotic partnerships for the town of Washougal (p. 33). And be prepared to set sail for a book group that navigated the waters around the San Juan Islands with Andrea Gough (p. 34).

The Puget Sound Council for Review of Children’s and Young Adult Literature review some worthy nonfiction series in “Read This Book!” (p. 36) and David Wright returns to “I’d Rather Be Reading” with a plea for understanding each other’s stories (p. 38). And I’m thrilled to introduce a new column: “Dispatches from Swellville,” which I guarantee will have you laughing out loud (or suppressing the need to do so if you’re on the reference desk). And don’t forget to read about news from around the state in “Communique.”

Based on the number of articles I received for this issue, it’s clear that we all have a stake in what the future of library collections will be. It’s exhilarating and nerve-wracking – but I suppose, with change, the two go hand in hand. In my world, one of those hands is holding a mobile hotspot that I can take to my cabin in the woods so I can enjoy music and podcasts during the day, and in the other, I’m holding a book that I can curl up with in the evening. What does it look like to you? 📖

Frank

Frank Brasile is a selection services librarian with The Seattle Public Library.

Data, Discernment and Demand: How Library Collection Decision-makers are Embracing the Future

by Sheri Boggs

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Sure, it might just be fancy French talk for “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” But it can also be a way for those of us who select, maintain, recommend, and love our collections to observe that while formats and items come and go, the collection — as both a geographic/digital destination and a service to the public — remains a fundamental and essential part of what libraries do.

In an informal online survey of collection services librarians and staff across the state, however, it's clear that while the importance of collections isn't diminishing any time soon, the scope, size, and physical makeup of our holdings is evolving.

Responding Washington state libraries from Anacortes to Yakima reported introducing new collections currently or in the near future. Half are looking at non-traditional collections, including tools, audiovisual (AV) equipment, circulating LEGO kits, musical instruments, and in the case of two different library systems, telescopes. A third are considering a collection of self-published materials, with some planning on instituting a dedicated local collection with works by local authors, musicians, and other content creators. Other systems are introducing book bags and kits for book groups, daycares, and families with small children. And while many libraries have already added digital content, a few are looking at embarking on that journey within the next year.

When asked about the future of their collections in the next five years, many respondents see some formats disappearing in favor of others.

“I believe we will no longer purchase sound recordings (CDs and audiobooks), though we may still have a few in our libraries,” predicts Nancy Messenger, Collection Development Manager

Sheri Boggs, a Spokane County Library youth collection development librarian, also blogs for the library. She is the chair of the ALKI Editorial Committee.

for Sno-Isle Libraries. “We will have much larger collections of electronic resources. I don't think print is dead, though collections may be smaller.” Others, especially in smaller, more rural communities, see their collections adopting some change but in general holding to tradition. Rondi Downs, of the Yakima Valley Libraries, foresees a “larger digital collection, but not significant reduction in print. We move slower than urban areas — more relaxed, not driven to be on cutting edge of changes in technology.”

“Digital circulation currently fluctuates between 11 - 13% of our total circulation. I anticipate use will increase to 20 - 30% in five years,” notes Joanna Bailey, Director of Neill Public Library in Pullman. “Physical collections will continue to account for the majority of our circulation.”

“It's clear that while the importance of collections isn't diminishing any time soon, the scope, size, and physical makeup of our holdings is evolving.”

And some libraries see their collections increasingly morphing to adapt to the needs and demographics of their communities. Brooke Golden, Manager of the Lakeside Library in Stevens County, sees a larger digital collection, a stronger high-interest/popular materials/bookstore model for the physical collection, an excellent children's collection to support early literacy, and small nonfiction collections not easily replicated on the internet. Kirk Blankenship, Selection Librarian with the Seattle Public Library, sees a collection “...similar to today's, hopefully with greater diversity.”

Of course, building collections for the future is not without its challenges. When asked about collection issues they're currently facing, nearly all respondents said they are looking at increasing funding for the digital collection, while half are looking at the need to reduce the size of the physical collection. The majority of collections staff surveyed cited the high cost of eBook and eBook licensing models as a major issue, and solutions have ranged from throttling back OverDrive's “Recommend to Library” feature to tapping funds generated by Friends groups. Several libraries are looking at developing criteria for self-published materials, with one anonymous respondent pointing out that one of the biggest challenges facing their department is stretching budget dollars to be able to include requests for self-published and smaller press titles in

continued on next page

addition to all the new, popular materials they're already ordering. Making smart collection decisions in a vast sea of choices takes time, and some selectors reported there isn't a lot left over for weeding and other traditional collection maintenance tasks. Others recognized the need to market the library's treasures in a consistent, effective fashion. And there's always the issue of timing and knowing "when and how to add new formats or collection services. This includes things like non-traditional items and video games to new databases," says Erin Shield, Technical Service Manager at the North Olympic Library System. "There are always at least two opinions about whether or not to add."

Nearly all of the collection services professionals surveyed indicate that looking to the future is as much an exercise in opportunity as it is a challenge in prediction and execution. Many districts, for instance Asotin in Southeast Washington, are leaning on products like Ingram's new Edelweiss Analytics to make smarter selection decisions. Others are mining their existing collection data to support asking for additional funds for their annual budget.

Sno-Isle is pairing their data with increased responsiveness to patron needs: "In 2016, we significantly increased the budget for e-Books and have done survey work with our customers to ensure that the selections we make meet their needs and interests," says Sno-Isle's Messenger. "We have implemented a Demand Driven Acquisition program for eBooks and one small section of the print collection. We have also done extensive data analysis on collection size, capacity, and circulation activity to help us move materials to the branches where they are most likely to be used. This is still in progress."

One tactic reported by Tracey Thompson, Collection Manager at Pierce County Library is that her library is "working on developing individual collection plans based on our strategic goals." Another anonymous survey participant says that they are currently training new staff for collection development, giving new opportunities to part-time staff that might have limited experience but a lot of interest in selection.

If there's one thing to take away from people's responses to how they're meeting new and future selection work challenges, it's a sense of turning anxiety into resourcefulness, and isolation into cooperation. "At this point we alone do not influence the


publishers so we must work with groups like Readers First and the ALA to lobby for fairer prices and usage limitations" says Rob Roose, Support Services Director at Spokane Public Library.

"We have a collection management team," adds Shield of the North Olympic Library System, noting the need for decisions to be collaborative rather than unilateral. "If you would like something introduced, you or you plus an ad hoc committee write a proposal to be reviewed and discussed by the team. From there, it's (more or less) by vote."

In looking at the future of the collection in a broader, more statewide sense, respondents envision robust digital offerings, plentiful meeting spaces, makerspaces, a wider variety of non-

traditional offerings, steadily growing use of digital content (while still needing strategically curated physical collections), an increased need for STEM-focused materials, and a stronger commitment to the communities we serve in terms of the items we select and present. At the same time, every respondent queried is aware that there are budgets to be balanced and partnerships to be made.

"We will need to balance the diverse needs of our customers and define the role of our

collections and how they meet the needs of the community," says Thompson of the Pierce County Library. "We will also need to look at the relationship of the different types of libraries to each other — school, public and academic. We can't continue to operate as separate entities, rather, we will need to develop deeper collaboration." 

“ If there’s one thing to take away from people’s responses to how they’re meeting new and future selection work challenges, it’s a sense of turning anxiety into resourcefulness, and isolation into cooperation. ”

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A Tale of Two Hotspot Lending Programs

by Toby Thomas, Kate Sellers, Lisa Fraser



Checking out hotspots in Seattle's New Holly neighborhood.

In 2015 **The Seattle Public Library** received a grant from Google, providing us with Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout to the public. Most of these went into the general library collection for anyone to reserve and use for a three-week period, and a few were designated for reaching traditionally underserved populations through outreach. Later that year, we were able to increase the numbers of both pools of hotspots, and now in 2016 we have about 800 total, with 600 in general circulation and 200 dedicated for intentional outreach to improve digital equity.

Our general circulation hotspots have been wildly popular (the holds list is currently at 1,523 people). With that level of use, we've encountered many new questions to answer each month. At the beginning of this project, we made the decision to try and follow our general circulation process for all items: hotspots checkout for a 3-week period, are renewable for two extra checkout periods (theoretically — renewals haven't actually happened, because there has never not been someone waiting on the holds list), and have the

same overdue fines as other items. We package them in a case with a charger and cable, and have an automated system that tells us when to turn off service to a particular hotspot because it's been overdue for a certain number of days. We've had to manage troubleshooting these differently than other media, because of the reality of what we call mismatches — when a hotspot device is returned in another hotspot's case and barcode, thus confusing the system that manages turning service off and on. A significant amount of staff time is spent making sure hotspots are usable before they end up on the holds shelf for a patron.

We're continuing to look at the long hold times, and working on the right balance between equal access through general circulation, and targeted availability to underserved communities with a higher need.

In October of 2015, we began our first experiment with long-term lending of hotspots to traditionally underserved communities. In trying to identify community partners, one of our concerns was how to ensure we made the devices available to people who needed them most, without requiring collection of too much demographic or income data ourselves. With this concern in mind, our first

Toby Thomas is an adult services librarian and Kate Sellers is the assistant managing librarian for technical services; both are with The Seattle Public Library. Lisa Fraser is Business Analysis Manager with King County Library System

continued on next page

partner was Seattle Housing Authority, since they already have income requirements in place for residents. We decided the New Holly location was an ideal one for our initial pilot, because this southeast Seattle neighborhood is home to a diverse population and there is a branch library that already had some connections in the community.

Our first checkout event was planned to coincide with a community listening session hosted by the City Librarian's Office. As we began to set up our table on the night of the event, it quickly became clear that our efforts to get the word out had been successful. Residents lined up before we had even logged in to our computers. Over the frantic course of the next two hours, we managed to check out 50 Wi-Fi hotspots, issue 16 new library cards, and give basic instructions on how the hotspots worked. Our voluntary survey results showed that:

- Nearly 70% of participants did not have internet access at home
- 72% reported speaking Somali in the home
- 60% reported household incomes under \$25,000

Since that first experience at New Holly, we've gone back twice more to check out hotspots. Each time has been as successful as the first. We've been working on other locations with Seattle Housing, including High Point in West Seattle, Rainier Vista in southeast Seattle, and Yesler Terrace in central Seattle. At New Holly we also offered 3 basic computer classes series over this year, and will be offering one series at Rainier Vista this fall. While we haven't yet had the same level of success in these other locations, we are planning to continue them in 2017.

Our other large partner is the Goodwill Training and Job Center. This seemed like a perfect fit for our program, because Goodwill provides basic computer, ESL and job training classes to adult students on a regular basis. Working with staff at Goodwill, we began a pilot program with them in April 2015, lending up to 50 hotspots to adult students there.

At the beginning of each of their eight-week class series, we do

“It's perfect and an absolute life saver for me.”

– Seattle Public Library patron

a library overview to new students, register new library cards, and then check out hotspots to students identified by instructors and case workers at Goodwill. Our overview of the library includes information about basic computer classes and one-on-one tech

help, citizenship and ESL classes, materials in languages other than English, and many other resources. Over the 6 months that we've been doing this so far in 2016, we've registered 77 new library patrons and checked out hotspots 68 times. Students reported wanting to use the hotspots to communicate with friends and family outside of Seattle, improve their English language skills, and search for jobs.

We also have been distributing hotspots via some smaller partnerships, including at Casa Latina, various homeless and transitional housing locations, and some other short term partnerships that have come out of the work of colleagues. In 2017 our current plan is to continue with these partners, and expand work with various Tiny Houses sites and tent cities, and expand

basic computer instruction offerings in association with our work at Seattle Housing locations.

King County Library System (KCLS) King County Library System began checking out 200 hotspots in May, 2016, as a six-month pilot project funded by the King County Library System Foundation. There was little doubt that the hotspots would be popular; the prior experience of SPL and others around the country had already demonstrated that they would be. Our pilot was designed to answer two key questions:

- Does circulating hotspots increase use of the internet among members of our target audience?
- What impact does hotspot circulation have on staff workflows?

After more than five months of hotspot lending, the short answers to these questions are “yes” and “a lot.”

Rather than working with a partner agency or instituting an application process for hotspots as we had seen with some other libraries, we chose to limit check outs of hotspots to six libraries in the Burien area, a region with comparatively low median income, low rates of internet use at home, and low educational attainment.



A happy patron checks out a hotspot at the Burien Library.

We believed that this approach could reach our target population without introducing new rules or staff workflows that would be hard to implement in our timeframe. This option also addressed staff concerns about service inclusiveness for all patrons and protecting patron privacy, both of which are key values of KCLS.

Our HotSpot Lending project team used existing circulation rules and workflows when possible, but some new configurations were necessary. For example, hotspots check out for our typical 28-day period, but holds and renewals are not allowed. While we were aware that many patrons, such as students, need longer-term internet access that could have been provided with an extended check-out period or by allowing renewals, we wanted to circulate devices to as many people as possible during the pilot. There were differing opinions about how allowing or not allowing holds would impact access among the target population, but the main deciding factor was practical. Allowing holds would automatically open circulation to the entire KCLS region, negating our targeting and causing an array of logistical problems that couldn't be solved easily.

Another consideration was how to maximize the amount of time that patrons were connected to the internet. We had to shift from thinking about the hotspot as the item, to thinking about the data connection as the item. We expected that a certain number of hotspots would be returned late, incomplete, or not returned at all. All of these situations result in an idle data connection. Like a running faucet, we would continue to pay for service while the hotspot was not in use. Using the traditional workflows for physical items would result in hotspot data lines sitting idle for up to six weeks before a charge would be assessed and the hotspot would be replaced. In a six-month pilot with only 200 lines, this could be a significant loss of access. We decided to manage overdue hotspots more actively by having staff turn off data access the day after the hotspot was due and telephone patrons at two and four weeks to remind them to return the device. Staff would also notify them that the charge for a lost item would not reverse if they returned the hotspot after a new one was purchased. This hands-on approach has resulted in most hotspots being returned promptly and overall loss being lower than expected. On the other hand, it can take a significant amount of time for the five branch staff who have

“The KCLS hotspot was a blessing. When my wife got sick, I was forced to leave my job. We had a house and internet, but since she passed I have to start over. When I lost our house to medical bills, I would visit the library every day to use the wifi. Even walking the 3 miles each way sometimes. This has been a huge help to me. Work searches and even just being able to read the news. Thank you so very much for adding it. It means a lot. Feel normal again. Thank you!”

– King County Library System patron


responsibility for this support.

Patrons are asked to return the hotspot to the circulation desk, and at that time they are offered a short evaluation form to fill out. The evaluation is also available online, but few patrons have used that option even though the URL is provided on the hotspot case. In the first five months of the pilot, we have received more than 200 evaluations. The results indicate that we are reaching our target population and increasing their access to the internet.

- More than half reported household income of less than \$25,000.
- About 12% of respondents with household income under \$25,000 lived in households of four or more people. The current Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four is \$24,300.
- Nearly 95% reported household income that falls below the median household income for the KCLS service area.

- More than three quarters of overall respondents used the internet more than they usually do as a result of having the KCLS HotSpot. That rose to more than 80% among households making less than \$25,000.

Funding has been included in the KCLS budget to continue circulating the 200 hotspots through December, 2017. The HotSpot Lending project team has recommended changes to the service, including a longer circulation period and a method for reducing repeat checkouts, which are meant to address concerns that arose during the pilot. These will be implemented over the next two months. Opening the program to the whole KCLS system was not recommended. Scaling up to a consistent level across the system would be cost prohibitive, and circulating the existing hotspots over all 48 branches would not provide enough contact for staff to develop expertise in supporting them.

The KCLS Foundation has also approved funding for 100 more hotspots to be added in 2017. The HotSpot Lending team is looking at several different distribution models that could reach the target audience more effectively and better match their usage needs. Recommendations will be in place by the end of the year, with circulation starting early in 2017. 

Picture This: Adapting Library Collections to Increase Patron Usability

by Chanteal Craft

Library collections are designed to organize materials and promote accessibility. These two principals have always gone hand in hand for library systems. Public libraries, in particular, serve a wide variety of audiences and have a wide range of materials in their collections. Having collections for different patron audiences is important. Most public libraries, at a minimum, have sections for children, teens, and adults, and usually sections for types of media, newspapers and magazines. We use these way finders to make materials accessible to the patron audiences that may be using them. As librarians, our ultimate goal is to provide information to the public, and so it is our passion to find ways to make collections increasingly accessible to patron audiences. This is why collection accessibility plays a vital role in how we organize materials in our libraries.

Imagine that you are the parent of a child who wants to find books about trucks. How would you find these items? You might try finding a catalog computer but get pulled away when your child is interested by something in the library. You and your child find a catalog computer. Would you know to search for these items by an author's last name? Unless you remember a favorite author who happened to write about the subject you were looking for, chances are that you probably don't know an author's name. You could do a keyword search, and then narrow that search down to branch, audience age, and type of material. But all of these options take time and your child may not have the attention span to wait patiently.

As a parent who comes to the library with children, all of these hurdles can easily become overwhelming and quickly prevent them from being able to access materials at the library. It is likely that they would have a hard time finding the items that they are looking for using this system. Certainly it would be much easier for them

to find, and for them to help their children find, books that are divided into child friendly categories such as things that go, sparkly, famous friends, and animals just to name a few.



Books about feelings in the children's picture book collection at KCLS.

It can be challenging to identify what minutiae we can alter in library collections that could improve patron accessibility. It's often difficult to relate to challenges in accessibility if we are not experiencing them firsthand. However, it is worthwhile because finding these changes could greatly improve patron experience and lifelong access to information. It can be greatly beneficial to get input from the patron audiences that we are trying to improve.

We can think, as librarians, about how we can make our library collections more accessible to the patrons who are accessing these materials. We can clearly see that a parent of a child is more likely to find what items they are interested in if they are more accessible to how a child would be likely to find them. In a library collection, usability is the ability of a collection to be used by its target patron audience.

In 2012, King County Library System (KCLS) began a study to decide how we could improve the organization of children's picture books to make them more accessible to parents of children, ages zero to seven. Focus groups with parents who used KCLS libraries were asked about how they thought the library system could improve the children's picture book section. After gaining the parents' input it was discovered that the majority of parents thought that the collection could better be organized. Prior to the picture book project, the children's picture books were shelved alphabetically by author's last name.

Many of the parents suggested dividing the books into easy-to-use categories. Parents said that they thought the categories would make it easier for their children to find books independently as well

Chanteal Craft is an adult services librarian with King County Library System.

continued on page 14

Digitizing Unique Local History: Washington Rural Heritage

by Sarah Morrison and Kristie Kirkpatrick

About the WRH Collection

The Washington Rural Heritage (WRH) Collection includes historic photographs, oral histories, video—both digitized film and recent recordings of memories and histories—documents and text, and photos of realia and museum holdings. The WRH collection focuses on primary sources held by small rural libraries and cultural institutions in Washington in order to make these unique items available to larger audiences and safeguard these fragile pieces of history.

You can search by place name, personal name, or keyword, or by Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials subject headings. You can browse by format, county, and decade. And you can search all collections simultaneously or limit to one specific collection, including the two collections discussed here.

The WRH Collection illustrates the social, cultural, and historical events, places and landscapes, and people of our state. The Kellogg Collection at North Olympic Library System (NOLS) dates from the 1860s through 1970s, with the bulk of the images dated approximately 1880 to 1930. The Whitman County Heritage Collection at the Whitman County Library (WCL) includes items from about 1850 through 1970, with the collection weighted towards the first quarter of the 20th century. Items in other collections searchable through WRH date from the 1850s through the present day, and span the state, crisscrossing from Cathlamet (Wahkiakum Co.) to North Pend Oreille (Pend Oreille Co.), from NOLS in the far northwest (Clallam Co.) to Asotin County in the southeast.

As libraries across the state have added more and more images to the WRH platform, more and more researchers from all over the country have found historic images to support, illustrate, and



Highway near Forks. A one-lane highway through the forest of western Clallam County, near Forks, WA. 1913, photographer unknown.

personalize their reports, documentaries, and family histories.

The North Olympic Heritage and Bert Kellogg Collections

The North Olympic Heritage Collection includes two sub-collections, the Bert Kellogg Collection and the Listen Up! Stories for the Northwest Corner oral history collection, both owned by the North Olympic Library System (NOLS).

Listen Up! is a new project capturing the oral history stories of area residents. The first batch, collected in March 2016, celebrates the National Park Centennial with 16 personal stories from Clallam County residents exploring their memories of a variety of national parks. Recordings collected in August and September documented the stories of local veterans and will be available through the WRH site this fall.

The Bert Kellogg Collection has been an ongoing digitization project at NOLS for many years. The Kellogg Collection, consisting of about 5,000 negatives, photographs, and slides, was donated to

NOLS in 1970 by local amateur photographer Bert Kellogg. Kellogg was well known in the community for his work with historic photos, collecting and salvaging them from anywhere and everywhere. Because of his expertise and custom-made equipment, friends and neighbors would bring their family photos to Kellogg when they needed touching up, enlargements, or other special attention. Kellogg would make new and improved copies, of course keeping a copy for himself. His collection grew—contemporary newspaper accounts report his personal collection as ranging from 30,000 to 100,000 slides, negatives, and photographs. Because of where he obtained originals, his collection focused heavily on specific locations within and around Clallam County, but other areas of the Olympic Peninsula and western Washington are well represented, and farther locations within Washington State and the Pacific Northwest also make a showing.

Sarah Morrison is a librarian with the North Olympic Library System. Kristie Kirkpatrick is director of the Whitman County Rural Library District.

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Kellogg became concerned about the safety of his collection while being simultaneously driven to make the historical information available to the community; this led him to donate a portion of the collection to the Port Angeles Public Library (later incorporated with the Clallam County Rural Library into the North Olympic Library System). Another large portion of the photographs was retained by Kellogg's family, and other photos were given away in smaller batches to area cultural institutions and, according to contemporary newspaper accounts, the Smithsonian.

Since 1970, NOLS has been constantly working to make this collection accessible to the public, first by making physical copies to file in photo albums at branches. Content was later made staff-searchable through an in-house Access database. NOLS began digitizing the collection when the first grant was awarded through the WSL and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 2012. Since then, NOLS has received four additional grants—the 2013, 2015, and 2016 WRH grant cycles, and the 2016 Metadata Enhancement & Remediation Grant Pilot Project—as well as annual, extremely generous support from the Port Angeles Friends of the Library.

While some Kellogg photos are the work of well-known photographers such as Philip Wischmeyer, William Thomas Worthington, and Asahel Curtis, some images are by less famous or more amateur photographers; sadly, photographers for most images are unknown, as often are the people in the photos—a perhaps not-unlikely state of affairs considering Kellogg found many of his images in jumbled-up boxes at rummage and estate sales, neglected in attics, and even at the dump.

Kellogg images have been recently used in the Rogue Valley (OR) Genealogical Society's *The Rogue Digger* quarterly newsletter, the



Land around the Elwha River being cleared prior to construction of Glines Canyon Dam and formation of Lake Mills. 1920s, photographer unknown.



St. Ignatius Hospital, 1907 postcard from the personal collection of Patrick McDonald, Whitman County Library's Rural Heritage Collection.



Colfax's St. Ignatius today, also known as the "Haunted Hospital."

Olympic Peninsula Travel Planner, and numerous upcoming documentaries. Previously, researchers have requested permission to use Kellogg images in news stories, government reports, trailhead information kiosks, books, documentaries, and in promotional materials from local small businesses. Images from before and during the construction of the Elwha River's two dams were in high demand leading up to the dams' removal.

The Whitman County Heritage Collection

We all know our libraries and collections are changing rapidly. As use of our traditional collections declined, Whitman County Rural Library District (WCL) began exploring new services or collections that might spark the most interest with our community. Among the most popular has been the Whitman County Heritage Collection.

Over the past eight years, WCL has digitized unique local history materials along with privately-held images and collections from area residents, museums, community groups, businesses, Washington State University, and other local sources. During this time, participation in the program and viewership of the online collection has been extremely popular. Community members are thrilled to be involved knowing they are preserving history while also helping to make the collection available worldwide.

Because the collection is easily searchable on the Internet, WCL has received genealogical inquiries from around the world and requests by a multitude of publications to use the images. *Whitman County's Rural Heritage* images have been seen in *Wheat Life*, *Railroad Magazine*, the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, and others.

Besides the online collection, we've produced a number of Rural Heritage exhibits that can be viewed in many of our 14 library

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branches, at the county courthouse, or at the county fair each year. Working with Washington State University's Rural Communities Design Initiative, we also produced a historic walking tour and map of Colfax using Rural Heritage images.

Project coordinator Patti Cammack is proud of the online database that now contains more than 3,800 local images. She says, "Many of the items we've preserved were fading and crumbling or never-before-seen photos from personal collections. Digitizing and compiling them into this statewide database has been a great way to archive local history while making it accessible worldwide."


This year, one area of emphasis will be locating items from St. Ignatius Hospital, otherwise known as Colfax's haunted hospital. Once slated for demolition, the building has become a hotbed of activity with ghost tours, visits by TV stations, and renewed efforts to save the historic structure. As with the walking tour brochure and exhibits, WCL utilizes our Rural Heritage collection as an economic development tool.

DPLA Harvesting

The 2016-2017 Metadata Enhancement & Remediation Grant Pilot Project, awarded to a total of four libraries, is specifically to support libraries preparing digital content for harvest by the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Both NOLS and WCL received this award.

DPLA is a portal that allows users to simultaneously search all content in all contributing institutions. Once institutions meet DPLA standards, DPLA can aggregate the records, making them searchable through their portal. In addition to the obvious benefit to end users—being able to search hundreds of collections at once, finding content efficiently—the system will match users to libraries they might otherwise not have thought to check. What researcher would have guessed to look at the University of Minnesota for information on the management of invasive mountain goats in Olympic National Park, or that the New York Public Library would have a pictorial list of men from Whitman County who served in World War I?


Conclusion

The Washington Rural Heritage Collection continues to grow, with hundreds of new photos anticipated this year. Not only are more photos than ever available for searching, libraries are continually improving the metadata attached to each image, to make searches more productive and search results more relevant. The North Olympic Library System and the Whitman County Rural Library District thank the Washington State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the grants to continue these projects. 

as make it easier for them to introduce other topics to their children in the future so their children could easily understand how to expand their areas of interest. Parents also suggested placing more books face-out so that their children would be able to see the covers of books since children are more visual than many other patron audiences and are more likely to take a book if they see the cover instead of the spine.

KCLS has implemented the picture book categories just as parents had suggested. Picture book circulation has increased and patron comments reflect an overall appreciation for the new organizational system. At some branches overall picture book circulation increased by up to 18% when comparing 2015 monthly circulation to its 2016 counterparts. This boost in circulation shows that more patrons are able to access picture books since KCLS has implemented the new picture book project. Perhaps parents of children are more likely to use the library now that it is easier to find the picture books that they wanted.

It is hard to estimate long term success for projects like this, but hopefully making collections more accessible to patrons will contribute to increased usage of our libraries and services. A simple change in how we display materials will may incite appreciation amongst the patrons using the collection. Patrons may be more likely to use other library services if they have a positive experiences using library collections. Increased foot traffic in the picture book collection means that patrons are more likely to use the children's computers, browse rest of the children's collection, and take a flyer for an upcoming children's program and attend that program. They may be more likely to tell people they know how much easier the collection was to use, and therefore those individuals are more likely to visit one of our libraries. Perhaps more children are now able to enjoy finding books at the library and will be more likely to feel successful using the library and return in the future. A child who finds their own book at the library may feel proud of themselves, gain a sense of accomplishment, and be more likely their friends and peers about what they accomplished at the library.

KCLS's picture book collection is just one instance where library collections have been tailored to increase collection usability. Adjusting library collection layout can increase access and usability while greatly improve patron experience as well and lifelong ability to access to information. Collection accessibility is ever present and should always be in the forefront of our thoughts as we make decisions that influence library collections. Seemingly simple decisions about how to display items could mean the difference in patron accessibility and lifelong learning. 

The Impact of Weeding on the Future of Your Library's Collection

by *Tami Echavarria Robinson*

Collections are a core component of a library and central to a library's mission. The future of a library's collection is dependent on the intentional shaping of the present collection by the librarians who are familiar with it most intimately. Selection and deselection (weeding) is the process by which this shaping occurs. It is the responsibility of librarians in all types of libraries to ensure the legacy of their library by carefully and deliberately shaping their collection in the present as a plan for the future use of the collection.

Traditionally librarians have a history of avoiding weeding their collections until they are forced into giant weeding projects by a lack of space. The literature of the profession going back decades contains articles and books in which authors try to persuade librarians to prune and weed their collections. But librarians seem to be reticent to let go of the precious books they so carefully selected and proudly shelved for their patrons to enjoy. Nevertheless, none of us can read the minds of patrons to know exactly what they will enjoy and what they will ignore, so some of the collection is underutilized despite the best intentions of librarians. New books are continually published and, as budgets allow, are purchased for library collections. The shelves eventually fill up and, unless continually weeded, in due time become completely full. At that point an overwhelming weeding project becomes necessary and unavoidable.

But overwhelming weeding projects can be avoided by using a continuously rotating weeding schedule. If all librarians participate according to their subject expertise, this becomes a regular part of the job rather than an onerous project. Certain subject areas require weeding more frequently than others due to the time sensitivity of the material in a discipline. For instance, science and business materials become outdated and obsolete much quicker than history or philosophy or literature. Some disciplines or call number ranges can be weeded every 5 years, others every 10 years according to how long the information in the discipline is relevant and accurate. In academic libraries summer is often a good time to weed, in between academic years when there is less use of the collection. Weeding a call number range is an excellent opportunity for a librarian to be reacquainted with what the collection has to offer and the condition of each book. Subject gaps in the literature may become apparent and may become topics for selection of new materials (Dubicki 2008, 135). There may be older books that have grown shabby with use or disuse, books that have been marked up, bindings broken or other conditions that

cannot be found by using computers to generate usage statistics. It may not be necessary to handle each book while weeding because newer books identified by call numbers that include publication years may not need to be examined.

Weeding is just as important as selection. Weeding is an opportunity to shape each part of the collection. Each time you weed is a chance to improve your collection. Not only are shabby-looking and unused books removed, but what remains becomes more visible and browsable for patrons. New space is made available for new acquisitions that renew the collection, whether in print or as eBooks. Weeding eBooks is done for the same reasons as weeding print books: identify older editions, outdated information, low-use titles. However, there are additional challenges in weeding eBooks depending on how the titles were acquired. They may be part of a consortial package or an eBook package making it harder to single out specific titles for deselection. In some cases, the consortium may take responsibility for weeding eBooks in a consortial package. It is not always a wise choice to weed print copies because there is a digital copy, particularly if patrons prefer print and the title shows recent usage.

With multiple formats, the selection process, as well as the deselection process, has slight variations but has many common criteria. Each format may have some additional criteria and slight differences. This article focuses on weeding books, but much is applicable to weeding other materials as well. The literature of library and information science contains books and articles to guide librarians in weeding specific formats.

An alarming number of library futurists have called for the completely digital library, where all books have been replaced by eBooks exclusively, to become the norm (Durant and Horava 2015, 5-6) but other librarians, scholars and students recoil at such proposals and the widespread adoption of such proposals is not likely in the near future. Even the futurists dedicated to the idea of a print-free future for all libraries reluctantly admit that "as a practical matter...libraries will have hybrid collections for some time" (Lewis 2016, 110). Lest you have been seduced by the thinking of some library futurists into believing the idea that all print collections will soon be superseded by electronic books, these ideas may be more speculative than grounded in reality.

The future of library collections is more likely to be a mixture of formats just as is the present. The facts are that retrospective

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continued on next page

conversions of print to electronic format are expensive, and library budgets are not currently expanding. “For some time in the future, many books will continue to be issued exclusively in print, or be issued in print many months before the electronic versions appear, so libraries will continue to buy selected titles in print. Wholesale digitization with full-text availability of the enormous post-1922 corpus is unlikely for both economic and legal reasons” (Ward 2015, 127). Some historical and archival materials may never be converted to electronic formats even as archives gain in importance. More libraries and publishing is being transformed into electronic format and the trend is likely to continue gaining traction. As publishers issue more of their content electronically, and libraries acquire more content on an electronic preferred basis, users are also becoming more comfortable with using that format. So selection and deselection must be a deliberative and intentional process that shapes the collection to meet the needs of patrons and supports the curriculum. Electronic formats such as eBooks should be part of this shaping process.

There is a growing body of research-based, as well as anecdotal, evidence that argues that print books and eBooks facilitate very different neuropathways in the human brain, and therefore different types of reading and thinking. Print facilitates deep reading, linear reading, (which is the ability to read extended linear narratives and reflect on its meaning), propels comprehension and includes inferential and deductive reasoning, and critical analysis and insight. This form of reading fosters sustained focus, engaged attention span, deep concentration, the ability to memorize and integrate information into conceptualized knowledge and self-awareness. Screen reading tends to be non-linear and develops rapid pattern recognition and decision making, is more prone to distraction, seizing attention only to fragment and scatter it. The need for constant stimulation is at odds with the demands for sustained attention and reflection required for reading any lengthy work. “The more we read from screens in tabular fashion, the more our brains rewire themselves to facilitate this activity, and the harder it becomes to engage in deep print reading” (Durant and Horava, 9-10).

As we adapt to the new we need to know what to preserve of the old. This is important in light of the key differences between print and e-reading. Print literacy and digital literacy represent different ways of reading as well as different ways of writing and thinking. In our selection and deselection of books for our present and future libraries

we need to find ways to preserve access to deep reading while we adapt to the digital age.

National libraries, large research libraries and specialized libraries with unique collections will need to retain print collections because they are critically important for extensive research. Research libraries have an obligation to support deep, complex research whereas smaller universities and colleges have more of a working collection that supports a curriculum. In medium and smaller colleges and universities supporting the curriculum with books that are relevant to that curriculum is the top priority. Public libraries which serve a community patron base will vary considerably according to the needs of that particular community and may retain smaller print collections as their patrons adjust to using electronic formats. Libraries in consortia will have additional considerations regarding the number

of copies of titles and editions retained in the consortium, particularly as last copies for the use of consortium members. Most of these libraries are likely to maintain physical collections for some time.

There are other pressures that may precipitate large weeding projects. Libraries usually are in the center of college and university campuses. To administrators who may not be library users themselves or strong supporters of the library, the location of the library may look like prime real estate. There

are always multiple conflicting demands for space on campus, and portions of the library may seem like a good place to put a tutoring and testing center, more computer labs and technical assistance, writing centers or other student support services. Part of the print collection may need to be weeded to accommodate pressures from outside the library for space, resulting in decreased shelf space for the library's collection.

“Sometimes the first push comes from university administrators who have identified some portion of the current library space that they prefer to use for another purpose” (Ward, 13). Many academic administrators are taking a close look at space that is central on their campuses, as libraries are, to repurpose for other priorities. Some weeding projects begin as a direct result of administrators' plans for part of the library space. Libraries must adjust accordingly. The future is likely to be skewed toward more eBooks than print books as library spaces are reconfigured and repurposed, but all print books will not be gone entirely any time in the foreseeable future.

“Lest you have been seduced by the thinking of some library futurists into believing the idea that all print collections will soon be superseded by electronic books, these ideas may be more speculative than grounded in reality.”

In Demand: Sno-Isle Libraries and the New Rules of Acquisition

by Mike Hawkins

No results were found for your search.

Most of Sno-Isle's OverDrive customers read that as an invitation to turn elsewhere. A much smaller percentage are more persistent and jab the recommend button. They navigate the multi-step process, enter their information, and wait days or weeks to be notified they can begin reading their selection.

But does it have to be that way? Is that what our customers wanted or could we do better?

Responding to changes in customers' reading habits and choice of formats, we devoted a substantial portion of Sno-Isle's 2016 budget to electronic resources. Before we made any decisions on how we more specifically allocated those funds we needed to ask for input from our customers. In mid-January we emailed a short survey to our eBook customers and over 5,000 responses later we had an improved picture of our community's needs.

A majority of our surveyed customers stated they prefer a collection with a large variety of titles; only 20% stated they prefer large quantities of the most popular titles. But while they told us they preferred variety over quantity, only 13% usually requested an item if it was not available in our eBook collection. Whether it is the request module's relative lack of visibility or the customer's unwillingness to wait for their request to be approved, a large percentage of our eBook customers were going elsewhere after an initial search failed.

In order to mitigate this loss of potential users, I approached our eBook vendor, OverDrive, at the Public Library Association Conference in April 2016 to partner with us to enable customers to skip the request process altogether and check out titles immediately. Over 85% of requests we received through OverDrive's "Request to Library" module were approved; those that were not were out-of-date or otherwise didn't meet our selection criteria. We believed that if we could confirm the request instantly for these customers and stop them from going elsewhere, we would improve both the browsing experience and customer retention. By preloading titles into our catalog and the OverDrive site, the customer could more often receive the quantity of search results that they expect from other outlets.

Mike Hawkins is the electronic resources librarian with Sno-Isle Libraries.

ALA Launch

In three short months, OverDrive completed the necessary programming to launch Demand-Driven Acquisition (DDA) on our site. Meanwhile, I designed the criteria for adding pre-approved titles using the same guidelines our selection librarians would for evaluating requests received through traditional means. I selected over three dozen major and minor publishers, but excluded those that meter their content by time, such as Macmillan, Simon & Schuster, and DC Comics. (Adding titles that evaporate one or two years down the road would undermine our effort to expand our permanent collection.) While we did not place any publication date limitations on fiction titles, we did cap the age of nonfiction titles at five years and specific categories at 12 months, including computer & technology, current events, study aids, and travel. At the outset of the project, we loaded over 100,000 additional bibliographic records to our catalog.

The opening day of the 2016 American Library Association conference in Orlando was also the opening day for our pilot project. Although we had dedicated a significant amount of strategic initiative funds, we had no reliably accurate way to estimate how much DDA would cost. And while we embarked on the project without a specific end date in mind, we hoped to offer the improved service for as long as possible; ideally, the pilot would extend through the end of the year.

On the first day, Sno-Isle Libraries customers selected 379 eBooks and 140 eAudiobooks for a total of \$14,236. The second day's invoice ballooned even higher with 402 eBooks and 208 eAudiobooks selected for a total of \$17,800. By day four, we decided to cut Harlequin from our approved publishers and lowered our price cap for titles from \$110 to \$75. Even then, these adjustments had no discernable impact. As we found out when the first invoice appeared, the service would prove much more popular than we imagined, exceeding both our and OverDrive's estimations.

By the end of the second week, with the selections still averaging \$15,000 a day, we knew that the situation required more drastic action. If we wanted the project to last long enough to have a significant impact on collection development and meet our goal of improving customer retention, we needed to make adjustments. A project that we hoped would last through December had already expended 27% of its dedicated funds.

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2 weeks and beyond


On July 8th, 14 days after the pilot project's launch date, we removed eAudiobooks from DDA availability. We knew this would affect a significant portion of our OverDrive users because 42% indicated that they enjoyed listening to eAudiobooks, but the longevity of the project was dependent on reducing daily invoice costs. Although eAudiobooks accounted for only one-third of the titles selected through the first two weeks, they totaled nearly half of the overall cost. Despite the disappointment of discontinuing eAudiobook support so early in the process, we are impressed with how DDA has improved the experience for Sno-Isle Libraries customers.

Our OverDrive circulation before DDA was up 35% over the same period in 2015; after DDA, circulation is up 40%. Our unique users per month before DDA was up 27% over the same period in 2015; after DDA, unique users are up 30%. Perhaps the best indicator of the project's success is that over 33% of our eBook customers have initiated a purchase through DDA—much higher than the 13% that requested eBooks through traditional means.


With the end of DDA eAudiobook selection, we improved our ability to sustain DDA for our customers over a period of a few months rather than a few short weeks. Since eAudiobooks were pulled, eBook purchases have slowly declined from averaging over \$7,000 per day in July to under \$3,500 a day in October. We anticipate that our 2016 funding for DDA will be expended sometime in November, perhaps as this issue of *Alki* comes hot off the presses, perhaps a bit longer.

Plans for next year

In 2016, Demand-Driven Acquisition was a pilot project. Going forward in 2017, we have integrated it into our regular electronic resources budget and will tackle the challenge of sustaining DDA for an entire year.

We are excited about our improved first impression that the Sno-Isle eBook collection presents and expect project objectives for growth to be met or surpassed based on the response so far. The resulting eBook collection is and will continue to be a dynamic and collaborative representation of the diverse interests and needs of our communities. 

If libraries belong to a consortium such as the Orbis Cascade Alliance in the Pacific Northwest, more books are available through sharing than individual libraries house in their buildings. Lesser used books can be obtained from partner libraries in the consortium in a matter of days. It is not necessary or desirable for all libraries in the consortium to retain redundant collections as long as enough copies of each title are available through the consortium. Joining a consortium involves costs as does interlibrary loan, so it is necessary for libraries to be able to afford to access lesser used books through these means. If a library cannot afford borrowing costs, accessibility to books the library itself does not own will be compromised.

All of these issues previously mentioned are at the heart of decision making that librarians make in weeding and shaping their library's book collection. Libraries of the future are shaped by the decisions we make today and tomorrow. The library users' own interior consciousness is transformed by how they read, think and write, now and in the future just as in bygone eras. Librarians must be careful not to allow futuristic utopian visions of digital or bookless libraries to lead us in misguided directions of abandoning print altogether. "Print and digital should be seen as complementary media, serving different reading and research needs, and not simply as interchangeable" (Durant and Horava, 22). The library's responsibility is to build and shape a collection useful to its patrons, and to facilitate rapid access to its holdings and to material not held locally but obtainable from other libraries. This responsibility is a long-established value of the library profession and will not change in the future. Shaping collections now for the present and the future involves both selection and deselection of books and other materials in whatever format they may be to build and maintain library collections that hospitably provide for their users' needs, both present and future. 

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Pondering the Future: Video in the Library

by Kati Irons Perez and Conan McLemore

The Future of Audio-Visual Materials

A few months ago, the authors were discussing the sort of articles we'd like to see in professional publications about audio-visual collections. "The Future" came up. Where are the prognosticators? Where are the Library Oracles telling us what we should do with our video collections? We discussed writing something ourselves, but then we would have to actually have a clue about The Future! When the opportunity came to write something with the theme "The Future of Library Collections," it seemed both kismet and a challenge.

In libraries we are constantly trying to juggle the advances of the future with the needs of our patrons living in the now, and nothing really exemplifies this struggle more right now than with video. Perhaps the best place to start are some of the questions that we're currently wrestling with when it comes to our video collections. Streaming, formats and format transition and InterLibrary Loan (ILL) are all issues that we've been spending a lot of time considering lately. Some of them, like streaming, seem very much of the future. Some of them, like ILL, might not seem to have obvious implications for "the future," but are worth a closer look.

Streaming

Streaming is the product that seems to have the strongest promise as "the future," but the question of whether streaming is going to completely replace physical discs ever, or eventually, or next year, continues to remain unclear. Research on market share trends for discs and streaming provide an endless list of contradictory reports. For every article insisting that streaming is killing the physical disc (Pullen, 2015), there's another insisting it's too soon to write an obituary for the physical disc (Morris, 2016).

What is true is that streaming provides content providers, like networks, studios, and services like Amazon Prime, Hulu and Netflix, a chance to cut out the middle man. They can make the product and release it directly to the consumer's eyeballs with no manufacturing or shipping involved. DVDs and Blu-Rays still make too much money to stop production of them right now, but long term the entertainment industry cannot resist the vertical integration opportunities screening provides.

Kati Irons Perez is the Library Materials Supervisor for Pierce County Library System and the author of Film Programming for Public Libraries. Conan McLemore is the Librarian for the Seattle Film Institute, Benevolent Friend to Cats, Metal Saxophonist Extraordinaire and All Around Helluva Guy.

Libraries, however, find themselves trying to answer this question: How do we best insert ourselves into a process that's designed to cut out the middle man? It is certainly similar to the issues we have with eBooks. We want to provide access to the content our patrons actually want and not just what content providers want to unload. We need it to be affordable, and we need to be able to budget for it and not wait every month for a bill that's going to surprise us.

We also have to accept that we're paying money for something we don't really own. We're paying for access to a collection curated by our vendors. We have no guarantee that what is there today will be there tomorrow.

This state of affairs is not unique to vendors providing streaming video to libraries. If you're a customer of any of the big streaming services, you know that titles come and go. Netflix has a well-publicized monthly list announcing titles that are arriving and those that are leaving (Hall, 2016). This constant churn of titles is due to licensing deals.

All streaming service providers, including those that serve libraries, must make licensing deals with networks and studios to stream their product. They may negotiate some particularly popular titles individually, but more often they're negotiating buckets of content. How much for the Warner Brothers back catalog? How much for the BBC catalog? The time limit for these deals is almost always temporary. Service providers will offer to pay for access to these buckets for a year, or three years or five years. It is not considered in the best interest of either party to offer "in perpetuity" type arrangements. If no one is watching the bucket of Warner Brothers material on Netflix anymore, Netflix doesn't want to pay for it. If Amazon Prime offers Warner Brothers a better deal for their content, they want to be able to take it.

This is only the beginning of the complexity of licensing. There are exclusive and non-exclusive licensing deals. For example, Netflix and Disney have recently entered into an exclusive partnership which means that new Disney, Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm movies will only stream on Netflix (Grauso, 2016). Non-exclusive agreements allow the studio to license their content to as many content providers as they wish.

Licensing agreements often provide various windows when a studio can either promote or remove access to their content. For example, a streaming service might usually offer all of the *Fast and Furious*

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films, but during the time a new *Fast and Furious* movie is being released, the access disappears. This is because the studio knows that there will be heightened interest in the franchise during this time, and people will be willing to pay to see the older titles individually through pay-per-view or buying a digital copy.

All the streaming services that work directly with libraries are dealing with this confusing and ever-changing system. They are trying to license the same buckets of materials that the studios want to license to the big dogs like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime. Studios also want to license their product to On Demand, cable channels and the growing supply of niche streaming channels that pop up every day. Library vendors are small fish in a large and rapidly evolving pond.

Both King County Library System (KCLS) and Pierce County Library System (PCLS) offer patrons access to streaming video through Hoopla, the product from Midwest Tape. Our patrons enjoy it and use is growing. From the library perspective, it's reliable with good customer service and a good selection of tools to evaluate usage. But it's hard to escape the desire that the selection of titles was better. Conversations with representatives at Midwest make it clear that they're working hard to find and add new titles, but doesn't erase the frustration of feeling like the last in line at the entertainment buffet.

PCLS is still struggling to figure out how the best way to budget for a product which charges by use. It is frustrating to have a product that you're afraid to market or promote, for fear that patrons might love it and start using it even more. It seems a peculiarly "library" problem. How do we keep people from liking this service too much?

Format Transition

Has there ever been a more frustrating format transition situation than DVDs and Blu-ray? The transitions of VHS to DVD and cassette to CD, despite their challenges, were ultimately easy. The industry made the decision for us by announcing they would no longer produce cassettes or VHS. Most library systems were already in the process of transitioning to the new formats, but the industry decision was a relief, particularly from a public relations perspective. We cannot provide that which does not exist.

The Blu-ray transition has not provided us such an easy trigger to make the change. DVDs remain some of our most popular items. At PCLS, patron requests for DVDs remain higher than requests for all of our other formats combined. It's true that Blu-ray machines play DVD discs, so it's possible that many or most of our patrons have transitioned to Blu-ray but continue to ask the library for DVDs because that's what the library has. On the other hand, retail suppliers of video purchases and rentals, like Red Box or Costco,

continue to supply both formats; clearly libraries are not clinging to a dead format while the rest of the world marches on.

There are other issues that have played into the slow decision to transition to Blu-ray. Blu-ray began increasing in popularity right around the same time the economy started to slow down. During the mid-2000s PCLS and many other public library systems started having some of their worst years ever. When the budget must be cut year after year, it's not a good time to introduce a new collection that will stand alongside rather than replace an old collection. Blu-ray was not a priority when bigger issues like open hours and staff jobs were at stake.

“...[S]treaming provides content providers, like networks, studios, and services like Amazon Prime, Hulu and Netflix, a chance to cut out the middle man.... Libraries, however, find themselves trying to answer this question: how do we best insert ourselves into a process that's designed to cut out the middle man?”

Ultimately, the reason it has been so difficult for libraries to make the decision to start carrying Blu-ray or even replace DVD with Blu-ray is that the home movie industry has been having the same struggle. Due to the same recession we struggled with, consumers were slow to embrace Blu-ray compared to the VHS/DVD transition. And now after slow growth for the last 10 years, sales of both DVDs and Blu-ray are dropping, down 12% in 2015 and 11% in 2014 (Morris).

The industry continues to produce both Blu-ray and DVDs, and customers continue to purchase both as well. Blu-ray sales finally surpassed DVD sales a few years ago, but the rise in Blu-ray sales came directly at the expense of DVD sales. In the article “How Many People Will Buy Physical Copies of Star Wars: The Force Awakens? A Brief Investigation” by Kevin Lincoln, Bruce Nash, who runs the entertainment-industry data site called The Numbers, says “The traditional milestone for the home-release hall of fame is about 20 million physical units total,” Nash says. “At the peak of VHS you would sell 20 million VHS units, and at the peak of DVD

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you would sell 20 million DVD units. Now, a combination of DVD and Blu-ray might take you to 20 million” (Lincoln, 2016).

And that, in a nutshell, is why the industry has not graciously pulled the trigger for us. Selling DVD and Blu-ray together barely nets them what they were making 10 years ago, and now streaming is eating into the home video market share as well. As long as all three formats are making money while the overall market is dropping, the industry will continue to release multiple formats.

So how does a library decide whether to start adding Blu-Ray or not? It does not appear to be replacing DVD, but developing alongside it. There’s no promise or guarantee that there’s a transition date approaching when we can stop carrying both and move completely over to Blu-Ray.

KCLS doesn’t carry Blu-ray and has no foreseeable plans to. The format is more expensive and because DVDs play in Blu-ray players, there’s not much need. PCLS does not carry Blu-Ray at this time, but it is in the 2017 plan to evaluate this decision. PCLS has received few patron requests for Blu-Ray and DVDs continue to be the highest requested item of all formats combined. However, there are a growing number of items that are requested by our patrons that are only available on Blu-Ray, particularly Anime titles. In addition, PCLS has been storing the Blu-Rays received as part of “DVD/Blu-Ray Combo Packs” with the idea that they would be added when the system began carrying Blu-Ray.

There are many questions to be asked and answered about adding Blu-Ray. Will it supplement or mirror the DVD collection? How much of the AV budget should be redirected to Blu-Ray, or would we be better served applying that money to our streaming video product?

InterLibrary Loan


In addition to the issue of format comes the issue of accessibility. Libraries have traditionally not loaned VHS and DVD materials, yet there has always been a high demand. Often times, a library may be one of only a few to hold a particular item, such as a rare film on VHS. It is time to reassess our stance on lending (AV) materials, but as always, there are obstacles to be overcome.

Some of the reasons given for not loaning audio-visual include the demand, which might be so high that it would be too labor intensive. Packaging and price of materials are also often given as reasons for not loaning AV. Now that the price of AV has dropped to equal or below the cost of books, price cannot be considered a barrier. To be sure the time and cost may be a factor, but if this is a service that our patrons desire, shouldn’t it at least be explored? One concern is that libraries would spend a lot of time searching for materials that would not be available, either because they simply do not exist at the time or because the owning library could not

or would not loan them. This seems like a simple matter of policy; change begins with a single library.

While we know that patron demand would be high, it is difficult to determine just how great that would be. Should there be dedicated staff to just work on ILL for AV and digital materials? Would it be so great that small libraries with limited budgets would be inundated and unable to keep up with demand? Would other patron services suffer? What about larger library systems? Yes, they have greater resources, but it would still be significant to create a whole new department, hire staff and keep it up and running. These are obstacles which can be overcome, however.

At PCLS these questions have come up recently as part of a larger conversation about our improving our materials request process. Although we receive 200 to 300 requests for video titles a month, we only offer two options as answer: Yes, or No. We would like to be able to offer another option. And frankly, with shelf space at a premium, it doesn’t seem like a bad idea to have some of our collection filling our neighbor’s needs as well as our own.

There are a million details to figure out as there are with streaming, new formats and any other inevitable surprises on the horizon. For the sake of our patrons and advancing forward with intrepid glee, we have an obligation to try. This too is the future of AV in libraries. 

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Curating Collections by Curating Connections: How to Increase the Use and Usefulness of Institutional Repository Content

by Sean Lind

Effectively managing a university open access institutional repository requires more than curating content. It also requires curating connections: collaborative, mutually beneficial working relationships with faculty and administrators in university departments which produce and collect student scholarship.

Like many academic libraries, the Brooks Library at Central Washington University (CWU) works closely with our School of Graduate Studies and Research to make graduate student theses available through our open access institutional repository, ScholarWorks @ CWU. But we're also working to form new partnerships with other academic units across the university so we can promote student scholarship and support a renewed university emphasis on student success and retention.

The digitization of print theses began soon after the ScholarWorks @ CWU repository was launched in January, 2014, and an electronic thesis mandate was adopted by CWU Graduate Studies for the 2015 academic year. CWU no longer collects student theses in print format, so, moving forward, ScholarWorks @ CWU will function as the institutional record for graduate student scholarship.

There are currently 4,506 print theses available for check out in the fourth floor library stacks which have circulated 13,171 times (including in-house use), all-time. That's approximately 3 circulations per item, with the most popular single thesis having circulated 51 times.

There are currently 430 electronic theses in ScholarWorks (including born digital and digitally scanned theses). Electronic theses have been viewed and downloaded more than 18,181 times. That's approximately 47.5 uses per theses, which means that electronic theses get 16 times more views and downloads than traditional print theses.

Although the content and authorship for print theses and digitized versions might be exactly the same, comparing circulation statistics of print theses to views and downloads of electronic theses is only shocking if you don't understand how the internet works.

Sean Lind is a scholarly communications librarian at Central Washington University.

Physical copies of any library resource are bound by space and time. Patrons can only check out what's on the shelf, and only one person can check out a specific resource at a given time. Open access electronic resources do not have the same constraints. The digital scholarship in our search-engine-optimized institutional repository can be easily discovered, browsed, viewed, and downloaded by anyone with an internet connection, and multiple users can view and download the same work simultaneously from anywhere in the world.

Providing access to student scholarship through ScholarWorks @ CWU effectively supports the broader university emphasis on student success and retention because electronic theses have a much larger potential audience than print theses ever could, and our own circulation and usage statistics show that electronic versions of student scholarship are accessed much more often than print.

In order to maximize the benefit of the digital medium, we thought: what's the defining feature of that medium and how can we use it to our advantage? The internet was founded upon hypertext markup language (HTML). The defining feature of both HTML and the internet is links, and links are active, ongoing digital relationships. If something doesn't link on the internet, we even describe it as "dead." Relevancy rankings in search engines are influenced by what sites a site links to, but also what sites and how many sites link back to that site. Sustained linking relationships increase relevancy in search results. All subject-specific electronic theses in ScholarWorks @ CWU link to the departmental webpage for that graduate department. For example, our Biology theses landing page links to the Biology graduate school pages.

Linking to other sites is a good first step and something we can control as administrators of ScholarWorks @ CWU, but getting academic departments at the university to link back to the institutional repository is a bit more of a challenge because the library does not control the content or links from individual department websites. So in order to maximize the benefits of the internet medium, we found it necessary to bring analog relationships to a digital world.

In talking with CWU professors and administrators, we discovered that electronic theses are only one kind of student scholarship at CWU. The objective now is to grow our collection of high-quality

continued on page 24

Jumping into Nontraditional Collections

by Lisa Gresham and Mary Kinser

For the past several years, the idea of nontraditional collections has been surfacing in Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) staff conversations as we work to envision creative ways to serve patrons with collections. Each idea generated a lot of interest and excitement, but the devil came out when we got to the details. Guitars would be fun, but who will tune them and change the strings? It makes sense to share specialty cake pans, but who will clean them if they are returned yucky? A tool library would be relevant in our largely rural and DIY-minded county, but where would we store them and how would we keep them serviced?

This past year, WCLS tired of talking about nontraditional collections and decided it was time to just jump in and do it! Our first task was to determine how we wanted to treat these items. Should they be intermingled with similar items in the regular collection, or set apart? In the end it made sense to develop these unconventional items into their own collection. Inspired by Sacramento Public Library, we created a Library of Things collection code. Then we set aside a small budget as a trial, agreeing to frame it as an experiment where it was acceptable to figure out the details as we went along.

Our first collection developed organically. When a patron mistakenly colored in a coloring book that our partner library had purchased and added to our shared catalog, staff thought, “how cool would it be to encourage people to color in the books and also be able to see what other people colored?” The “Coloring for Grown-

ups” kits were born! Kits include a set of pencils and a sharpener, giving adults everything they need to explore the coloring book craze.

The kits are cataloged as a series, making it easy for patrons who discover one to find the rest of the coloring books. A label with the following explanation is inside each kit, making it clear that it is okay to color in these books: “Share your creativity! Color a few pages and return all items in the box for the next artist.” There is a card for self-reporting if the coloring book is full, pencils need replacing, or the sharpener is missing; staff are not required to inspect contents at check-in and patrons are not charged for missing parts. We started with five copies each of six different coloring books, and, based on their popularity, added six new designs after several months. The 60 kits are almost constantly in circulation with only a few pencil replacements so far, and self-reporting has been working well to alert us to problems.

Buoyed by the success of the “Coloring for Grown-ups” kits, we moved on to board games.

WebJunction webinars by John Pappas, Library Manager at Bucks County Library, were very helpful in making selections, thinking through processing, and establishing circulation policies. We also consulted the Facebook group League of Librarian Gamers for more information on best practices and hot titles. A local game store, Dark Tower Games, provided feedback on our selections and gave us a volume discount.

Games in our collection are all family-friendly and were carefully selected for their ability to be enjoyed even with some pieces

NEW COLORING BOOK KITS FOR GROWN-UPS



INCLUDES COLORED PENCILS AND SHARPENER!

WCLS's selection of "Coloring for Grown-Ups" kits. From WCLS's Instagram.

Lisa Gresham is Collection Support Manager and Mary Kinser is a collection librarian for the Whatcom County Library System.

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missing. Each game has a list of contents inside the cover and the sturdy bags containing game pieces are clearly labeled as to their contents. The contents label asks that patrons alert staff to missing parts only “if any parts are missing that prevent the game from being played.”

To prepare the games for circulation, considerable time was spent reinforcing the manufacturer game packaging (based on feedback from other libraries, we decided to circulate items in their original boxes, rather than repacking in separate bags or cases). Cardboard game box covers (top and bottom) were contact-papered and the corners reinforced. Inner plastic trays containing parts were affixed to the box bottom, folding game boards were reinforced, and instruction booklets were laminated. We use the Corner 2 Corner bands recommended by John Pappas to ensure that game box lids stay on firmly.

Feedback from patrons has been glowing. A Facebook post with a photo of the games preparing to ship out to branches generated a huge number of likes, comments and shares, as well as suggestions for additional titles to add. These games are expensive, and patrons love being able to try them out before deciding to purchase. They are great for parties, family get-togethers, visits from the grandkids, and winter weekend fun. The most common response has been, “it is so awesome that the library now has board games!”

Next up – American Girl® Dolls! Dolls will circulate with a hairbrush and one extra set of clothes. Each doll will also have a diary where kids can write about their adventures. About circulating American Girl Dolls, WCLS Youth Services Manager, Thom Barthelmess, says, “Because of cost, things like this are often out of reach for folks in our community. And the library can offer them without stigma, so boys, older children, and other kids who might not purchase them can enjoy them with pleasure and without judgment.” We are excited to begin offering these dolls for circulation later this year.

The moral of this story is, if you’ve been waiting to experiment with nontraditional collections until you have a budget windfall or a comprehensive plan, wait no more! Decide what kinds of items will spark interest in your community and fit within your collection scope. Think about how you want to circulate the items, create the infrastructure in your ILS, and then start where you can – even (or especially) if it’s a small, targeted collection. Be willing to keep your circulation policies simple. Get staff behind the project early by reassuring them that they won’t be counting individual cards or plastic trains at check in. For a small investment and some staff time, nontraditional collections have a big payoff in patron perception of the library as a dynamic place that provides social experiences as well as more traditional types of access. 📖

student scholarship and build on the success of the electronic thesis collection by recruiting more student contributions from other academic units across campus, furthering the library’s support of student scholarship and promoting student achievement. So far, we’ve been able to recruit two new partners: CWU’s Theater Production department and Mechanical Engineering Technology department, each of which has provided us with unique student content.

Theater Arts graduate projects, which feature complete write-ups of the creative process involved in producing a play or musical, link from the Theater Production Graduate Program to the main ScholarWorks @ CWU page. All projects were scanned by the Theater Department and uploaded into the repository by the library. Scott Robinson, CWU Theater Arts Professor and Chair, described his reasoning behind making those projects publicly available: “The Theatre Production [...] collection will allow K-12 teachers worldwide to review a vast and growing reservoir of research documentation. This collection is not only appropriate to the K-12 production needs, but is a solid foundational research platform that can be used as a springboard to support creative projects at numerous levels. The ScholarWorks project is one in which we are honored to participate.”

Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) senior undergraduate projects, which detail the design, construction, and utility of a wide variety of engineering projects and provide valuable insight into the engineering process, are linked by individual project to the downloadable PDF versions on ScholarWorks @ CWU. MET Professor Craig Johnson explains, “ScholarWorks enables us to offer a history of successful capstone projects for our students to critique and use as benchmarks: maybe even get a little inspiration. It also serves as a source of evidence to support our accreditation.”

The CWU Theater and MET departments have been enthusiastic, active supporters of ScholarWorks @ CWU, and have contributed time and resources to the uploading and linking of their content, and both recognize that the bigger goal is to use the digital platform to highlight the good work which is being done by their students. This is great for individual students, who now have the opportunity to participate in the scholarly conversation for the first time as undergraduate or graduate students. It’s also great for individual departments, who can use these collections in a variety of ways: 1. As a recruitment tool for new majors (“Check out the interesting work our students are doing. Wouldn’t you like to study here?”), 2. As a resume-builder for students (“Check out the valuable work I did. Wouldn’t you like to hire me?”), and 3. As a recruitment tool for new faculty (“Check out the exciting things our students are studying and making. Wouldn’t you like to teach here?”). And, of course, added interest in individual projects adds to the total use of ScholarWorks @ CWU, which further illustrates the value of the repository to the university as a whole. 📖

Libraries x OER = Equity + Access in Education

by Craig Seasholes

Bring librarians together and great things happen.

Open Educational Resources was the focus of a session led by Barbara Soots, Office of the Secretary of State (OSPI) Open Education Resources (OER) program manager at the Oct #WLMA2016 conference, held on October 14 and 15th. If you have time to only read this far, be sure to access, bookmark and share OpenWA.ORG with your community.

For those fortunate to attend Barbara's session, there was time to hear some of the development and creation of Washington's notable and extensive OER clearinghouse. Participants also helped create and share further resources via the session's [open presentation document](#). Check It Out!

No aspect of education is changing as quickly, nor holds as much promise, as the grand-library-without-walls at the democratic core of open, online educational resources. Today and tomorrow's citizens have the world's information at their fingertips and the opportunity to use and create new knowledge in a globally connected world.

OER can be as simple as accumulated lesson plans. For example, Chris Gustafson, recently retired from the Whitman Middle School Library, developed brilliantly simple and accessible examples of OER called "[eBins](#)," along with her Whitman Middle School colleagues (and maintained by her successor, Katie Riley). Each topical resource is filed by grade, then topic, then made available as .PDF and including Common Core resources and essential questions to guide student research.

OMG! I don't know if there are sufficient words to capture the vastness, depth and availability of knowledge that can come streaming into the civic space where librarians live, eat, sleep and thrive. But we do have the key — a professional character trait (and a habit for many of us) that we can use to help our communities search, access, evaluate, use, create and share information. Joyce Valenza calls it "The Curation Mandate" in this [post for School Library Journal](#). For more information on the power of curation and the promise of OER collections, check out Valenza's [curated list of OER platforms at Symbaloo](#).

Don't wait, there's more!

One session participant and #WLMA2016 conference partner was the Amazon Inspire OER initiative. Still in beta (as of October 2016) but with the promise of bringing Amazon's look-and-feel, Inspire would bring online prowess and digital capacity to educators and students that would allow for quick and efficient browse and search, tag and associate, algorithmic access to Creative Commons OER. At this point in time, I'm willing to bet that there may be a familiar little smile in the future of OER.

Oh, the places we'll go!

With so many factors pointing to OER, it's no surprise to see who's jumping onboard. Follett, another conference partner (and the provider of over 75% of Washington school library OPACs) is busy building OER into their next major catalog search platform update. That's a big deal.

What else is a big deal? The U.S. Department of Education #GoOpen Initiative represented at the conference by Mark Ray, Chief Digital Officer of Vancouver Public Schools, and Future Ready Librarians Lead with the Alliance for Excellent Education and the #FutureReadyLibrarians initiative. Mark's "Librarians Leading Beyond the Library" session presentation is another treasure trove of conference resources.

While you're clicking to learn more, be sure to watch Mark's "[Changing the Conversation About Librarians](#)" from a TEDxElCajonSalon talk. Oh, and hot on the heels of our conference, the U.S. Department of Education held a 2-day summit on "Future Ready Schools & Libraries" at Highline College Oct 24-25th. OER savvy librarians are a Big Deal.

What's the Last Word?

In the beginning, #WLMA2016 conference was kicked off by Steve Hargadon, founder of [Library 2.0](#), who challenged us to identify our most transformative educational experiences and to consider, "What are we really hoping to accomplish in the life of a student? What is at the curricular core of education?"

I can think of no better way to provide life-changing ideas and information than through curating and teaching others to access OER materials in and through our libraries. Raise high the banner of Equity and Access to OER; for when we do, #librariestransform.



Craig Seasholes is a teacher-librarian with the Seattle Public Schools, WLMA division chair and WLA vice-president.

Meet Your New Washington State Librarian

by Frank Brasile

When librarians think of the Washington State Library, what collectively comes to their minds? Besides the physical building in Olympia (well, Tumwater)? Not quite sure? Not to worry. Cindy Aden, the new Washington State Librarian, aims to change that.

Secretary of State Kim Wyman appointed Aden, the new state librarian, on August 1st. And Aden — with experience in libraries (Kitsap Regional Library, University of Washington, Library of Congress), the public sector (Amazon, Corbis, newspapers), OCLC, and as former president of WLA — can ensure that the state library is an active, relevant institution that serves the residents of our state and supports libraries statewide.

In a time when libraries are reimagining themselves, Aden's corporate experience is an asset. She was the first librarian hired by Amazon in 1998, where she managed cataloging and taxonomy specialists to make titles more discoverable.

"My years at Amazon were particularly useful, for Amazon was breaking new ground that libraries wanted to be part of," states Aden. New ground like having an online catalog with book covers and customer reviews, delivering books in a matter of days to customers (instead of interlibrary loan that takes six weeks) and having customer-focused discovery that people felt worked better for finding titles and getting new reading suggestions.

"Amazon in those early days had a lot of library fans, and it was so it was useful to watch libraries adapt what worked. I learned how a corporation looks at libraries, and what we libraries and librarians have that remains valuable and hard to replicate," including libraries' loyal, dedicated readers and the goodwill and public support libraries enjoy.

Aden's seven-plus years at OCLC were also instructive. As the director of Partner Programs, she worked with Google, Yelp,

Wikipedia, Goodreads, Bing, Amazon and a number of mobile start-ups who "wanted to get closer to libraries and library users and who wanted access to our expertise and the reliable, complete information available in our catalogs." Aden notes that libraries must continue to be strategic with these offerings, especially since they are of such value to these and other corporate giants.



Aden, left, with Secretary of State Kim Wyman.

When Aden arrived at the state library on August 1st, a number of important items were already in place: federal LSTA funds were committed for another five years; plans for a new state library building were finalized; and the state library's two-year budget was completed. This gives Aden the opportunity to focus on programs and services that have a measurable impact on libraries and library patrons that make a significant difference, especially those that are unique — "things libraries or library patrons cannot do for or by themselves."

These include the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTTBL), which reaches 9,000 patrons statewide (Aden

is keen to do more outreach with WTTBL and expand services to potential patrons like the elderly and those with reading challenges), the state's prison and state hospital libraries which are effectively managed by nine librarians despite being "grossly under-resourced," and the state library's digital literacy program, which includes Microsoft's Imagine Academy that provides users with skills and certifications that are essential for the 21st century workplace.

In spite of these and other valuable programs, the state library does face some challenges, the most significant being the budget.

"The state library has a more stable funding basis than before—it has a fund populated by \$3 from every property title transaction statewide. This guarantees the library doesn't have to go in front of the Legislature to ask for general funding as before. But... it also means it cannot easily approach the Legislature for special funding needs" says Aden, also noting that the budget is about half of what it was 10 years ago.

Frank Brasile is the editor of Alki.

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One example of special funding is the need for a new state library building. In 2001, the Nisqually earthquake hit, and the Legislative Building was damaged; the legislature moved into the building occupied by the state library, and the state library has been temporarily housed in a building in Tumwater ever since, where its “rare collections of maps and other Pacific Northwest materials are languishing in rooms with no special climate control or accommodation.”

The State Archives building is also inadequate, so the archives and the library will be asking the legislature jointly for a new building “to guarantee better collection management, more effective customer service, with shared service desks, and hopefully more visibility than having a new building of the stature deserving of our state library and archives.”

Another challenge is a lack of visibility. While many libraries utilize its programs and services, the state library’s support — which is more than \$3 million per year — is often unacknowledged, and Aden fears that this lack of knowledge on behalf of library patrons is detrimental. This funding provides everything from circulating Lego Mindstorm sets and access to eBooks and articles through its database licensing program, to Supercharged Storytelling training and other professional development opportunities, and individual consulting for libraries who need assistance internally or to develop external support in their districts. Aden asks that the library community make the state’s support of these programs and services more visible so the legislature truly understands the difference that the state library makes in the lives of our residents every day.

Perhaps WLA is the unified voice that the state library needs, and Aden and WLA have a long history. Aden’s experience with WLA began in 1990 when she joined the *Alki* editorial board, and culminated with her presidency in 2000 and 2001.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about libraries all over the state, to learn more about public libraries (I was working at the

University of Washington Libraries from 1989-1996) and to stretch my leadership skills, which I could not do as much in my workplace. It really prepared me for everything that came afterwards—and most especially for this, my current job” as the state librarian.

She is pleased that WLMA has become part of WLA and that its new structure recognizes all types of libraries, including special libraries.

“I truly believe, regardless of our larger, national and international associations, we benefit so much for all knowing each other in this state,” she notes. “I hope WLA will grow to become a truly comprehensive organization for all professionals and that the annual conference can expand to be relevant to all.” Aden also emphasizes that there is always a necessity for advocacy at the state level, so having one organization where all can make their concerns known and where librarians can speak with one voice is very effective.

Aden recognizes the varying needs of different kinds of libraries. She is aware that libraries that are part of the metropolitan area that stretches from Everett

to Olympia seem monolithic, while the small, rural libraries scattered throughout the state (not just in eastern Washington) appear to create a sense of divide. Aden, whose first library visit in this capacity was to the public libraries in Richland and Prosser, is committed to visiting every library system on both sides of the mountains with the “hope to always have representation and input from all sizes and types of libraries whenever the State Library seeks feedback via committees, councils, meetings and surveys.”

It’s clear that Cindy Aden brings an enormous amount of energy and experience to her role as Washington State Librarian, and libraries and residents throughout the state will surely benefit from her leadership. Let’s return the favor and speak, whenever we can, about the services and support the state library provides for our institutions and our patrons. 📖



Front seat: WLA President Brianna Hoffman, Aden. Back seat: former president Darcy Brixey, Executive Director Kate Laughlin.

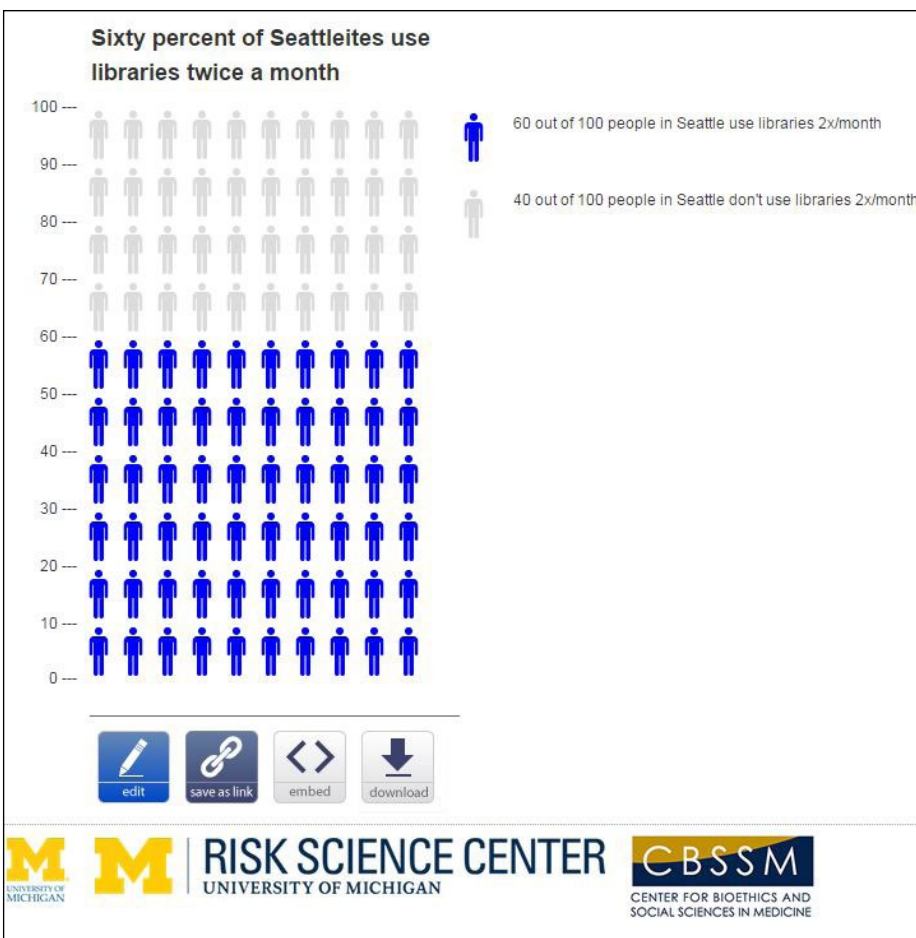
Safety in Numbers: Helping People with Health Numeracy Challenges (Which is All of Us)

by Ann Glusker

An alarming article appeared recently in the *New York Times*. Titled “[Most Parents Give the Wrong Dose of Liquid Medication](#)”, Nicholas Bakalar details the ways in which children may be given up to twice the recommended dosage of medicines, with researchers finding that almost 85% of parents made at least one dosing error. Some of the reason was the type of administration—measuring cups are the least helpful in assuring accurate doses. But some of the reason, I suspect, was the challenge of numeracy related to health care. Bakalar (2016) mentions a “bewildering assortment of instructions”, and the fact that the units on labels don’t match those on the tools for giving the medication, but health numeracy is more than that.

In “[Rethinking Health Numeracy: A Multidisciplinary Literature Review](#)”, health numeracy is defined as “the individual-level skills needed to understand and use quantitative health information, including basic computation skills, ability to use information in documents and non-text formats such as graphs, and ability to communicate orally.” (Ancker and Thompson, 2007). It’s not the same as health literacy or general literacy; research has shown that someone can have high literacy levels, but low numeracy levels (Apter, et al, 2006). And it’s not the same as being good at math; especially in the health care arena, numeracy involves broader tasks such as risk assessment and understanding probability, interpreting charts and graphs, and communicating about questions and problems with numerical aspects (Peters, 2014). Lower numeracy scores are connected to more ER visits, less health screening, less likelihood of researching treatment choices, and more (National Numeracy, 4). And just like literacy, you can’t tell a person’s numeracy level by looking!

Almost a third of American adults do not have the numeracy to do more than count, sort, and add simple numbers (Rampey, et al, 2014). It’s easy to imagine they would have a hard time negotiating testing their blood sugar, deciding on a dosage of pain medication (or cough syrup for their child), or making a decision about cancer



Use of The Seattle Public Library. Image created by Iconarray.com. Risk Science Center and Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine, University of Michigan. Accessed 2016-10-09.

treatment which had complex risk information. However, there are also many examples in the literature of healthcare providers who could not answer dosage and risk questions correctly, so this really is a phenomenon that affects all of us (National Numeracy). And not only may the healthcare decisions and condition management activities which require numeracy be happening at times of crisis, or when people are ill, but the stakes are very high, the materials more than usually complex, and the sense of shame in not understanding is potentially extreme.

Healthcare providers and health educators are starting to wake up to their responsibility to address this issue, and to present information in ways that patients can understand, whatever their numeracy challenges. One tool that they (and we can!) use can be found at [IconArray.com](#). In this tool, anyone can quickly create a graphic that explains a percentage. Here is one I created which

Ann Glusker is a reference and consumer health librarian for The Seattle Public Library. Besides being a data geek, she is an Anglophile and an inveterate traveler who likes nothing better than a great new mystery series.

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takes a data point about use of The Seattle Public Library, and visually shows its impact (see previous page). Providers are starting to use such tools if they sense that it will help a patient making a complex decision. There are many more communication strategies that can make numerical and probability information easier for most people to connect with. This chart (right) outlines a range of them.

But let’s face it, this chart is daunting! Remember, it’s aimed at healthcare providers, meaning that many of the items on it are ones we would not be discussing with patrons. But still, for the other items, it would take a lot of time and effort to get up to speed engaging around new ways of communicating numerical information, and it may not be practical for those of us who are already working at capacity or for whom this isn’t a comfort zone.

The thing is, the way I see it, we already are doing so much in the role that is represented in the very last entry on the chart: WE are the “information intermediaries” that the health care providers are being exhorted to use! Patrons turn to us as trusted advocates, educators, and translators of gobbledygook of all sorts into plain language, and health questions are no exception. Part of the reason that there is more awareness of numeracy in healthcare is that the new model involved shared decision making between providers and patients. In many ways, we have similar interactions with patrons, in which we are going through material together to find the best fit for their information needs and resulting decisions.

So, what are some ways that we can specifically help our patrons (and family, and community, and...) around health numeracy? Here is the beginning of a list, and knowing our boundless creativity, it is sure to grow. When a patron asks a health-related question that has a numerical component:

- Know that health numeracy is an issue, and can be a hidden one—never assume a competency level.
- As much as possible, give the patron the time and compassion they may not get in our hurried medical context.
- Check in often to make sure the patron understands the

TABLE A-6 Summary of Recommended Strategies for Communicating with the Less Numerate	
What Communicators Should Do	Specific Strategies
Provide numeric information (as opposed to not providing it)	Self-explanatory
Reduce the cognitive effort required from the patient or consumer and require fewer inferences (i.e., do the math for them)	Provide fewer options Provide less information Present absolute risks, not just relative risks Keep denominators and time spans constant Use numbers consistent with how people use the number line Do the math for them Use appropriate visuals
Provide evaluative meaning, particularly when numeric information is unfamiliar	Carefully use evaluative labels and symbols Carefully use frequency versus percentage formats Use other, more imaginable data formats Use emotion to persuade
Draw attention to important information	Order information with the most important information first or last Highlight the meaning of only the most important information Use a framework to provide an overview Use fonts that draw attention to important information
Set up appropriate systems to assist consumers and patients	Identify communication goals Choose information presentation formats strategically Consider the use of default options and other choice architecture Use computer-aided decision tools Use information intermediaries

Communication strategies to aid with health numeracy. Chart from Peters et. al, page 114, accessed 10-09-2016.

information, and if you and they are comfortable, ask them to repeat back their impressions of the information (also called “teach back”).

- Don’t expect patrons to personally invest in numeracy; it’s our job to give words to explain information where possible (labeling risk levels should be left to professionals, i.e. is a 1 in 4 chance a high or low level for a scenario).
- Recognize there are layers to decision making, and a decision may not be all about the numbers. And if you get a chance, take a look at the NPR article “[What the Odds Fail to Capture When a Health Crisis Hits](#)”; it’s about a man who is now a renowned health numeracy expert (in fact he created the IconArray site), who had to figure out what the odds meant to him in a time of health emergency.

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- Educate yourself as much as can; even just understanding absolute vs. relative risk can help! The National Cancer Institute's publication "[Making Data Talk](#)" is a wonderful and painless introduction to this process.
- Be prepared with websites and resources patrons can use. [MedlinePlus.gov](#) is an excellent all-purpose site; local chapters of condition-specific organizations (like the American Heart Association) will know of resources; or, Google <patient decision aids> to get a sense of what's out there to help patients/patrons facing certain situations.
- Use tools like IconArray (it takes about 30 seconds to create a chart like the one above) to display percentages, or other educational tools related to numeracy, if you want to have them at the ready.
- Collaborate with healthcare organizations and providers; many have patient education specialists who work with the same populations we do, and can give supports and consultation.
- And, if you need some monetary help for related programming, apply for outreach funds from our region's branch of the National Library of Medicine! The [application and reporting processes](#) are very user-friendly!

Interest in health numeracy is hitting the mainstream as healthcare providers are increasingly moving toward a collaborative model in making decisions with patients about their care. We in libraries already offer great support in this arena, and with awareness can be ready to provide more. 📖

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Readers Choice with the Pacific Northwest Library Association

by Brianna Hoffman

The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) held its annual conference this summer in Calgary, Alberta. The theme was “Networking Across Borders,” and as a first-time PNLA Conference attendee, I can attest that this was a perfect description of the conference. Librarians, library staff, and library advocates from across the Pacific Northwest region that includes Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Washington gathered to exchange ideas and expand professional networks. Out of the many wonderful sessions I attended, the one that resonated the most, the one that has kept me thinking months afterward, was “Young Reader’s Choice Awards (YRCA): Reading Across Borders.” This program presented by Jocie Wilson, YRCA Chair and Client Services Librarian at the Yellowhead Regional Library in Spruce Grove, Alberta, aimed to teach attendees “how easy it is to promote YRCA participation in your public library or school,” and also how it encourages “kids and teens to discover their love of reading by empowering them through choice” (Wilson, 2016).

The history of PNLA’s Young Reader’s Choice Award is a long one. Established in 1940, it is the oldest children’s choice award in the United States and Canada. The award was created by Harry Hartman, a Seattle-area bookseller, who believed “every student should have the opportunity to select a book that gives him or her pleasure” (Krantz and Wilson, 2015). The award encourages participation (and collaboration!) between public libraries, schools, authors, and booksellers. One of the main goals of the YRCA is to promote strong partnerships as well as a program that promotes literacy.

The “Y”

Up until 1991, a single Young Reader’s Choice Award was given. A dual division structure that included a Youth and Senior replaced the single award until 2002, when three divisions were designated. The three divisions that are currently awarded are: The Junior division, which is intended for readers in grades 4-6; the Intermediate division, for grades 7-9; and the Senior division, for grades 10-12. Even though there are now three distinct divisions, readers are eligible – and encouraged! – to read and vote in any division. This creates a more

inclusive process where children of any reading level can read the nominated titles and vote for their favorites. The YRCA is an award that children can grow with, and one that exposes them to a variety of different titles.

The “R”

Readers of all ages and all reading levels are encouraged to participate in the YRCA. Though the program appears to attract “good” readers initially, the variety of titles and divisions makes it accessible to children reading at all levels. The only eligibility requirement for voting is voters must be young readers in grades 4-12, who live in PNLA member states or provinces. Readers must have read or listened to a nominated title(s) in order to vote.

The “C”

The heart of the YRCA however, is the “C”: Choice. The award focuses on the choice of the reader and by placing the award squarely in the reader’s hands, the YRCA program builds confidence, self-esteem, and self-awareness in young readers. The importance of reading choice in creating lifelong learners and readers is well documented. In the classroom, the amount of time children spend on leisure reading is correlated with student achievement (Stairs and Burgos, 2010) and children become “voracious readers by finding connections as they read” (Allyn, 2015).

The YRCA aims to encourage and not discourage readers, and finding these connections comes directly from the reader having a choice. Three divisions with multiple reading levels gives readers a broad choice of material, making it possible for readers to challenge themselves if they choose to. As Pam Allyn states, “when children choose their own books, they’re more likely to work through them, even if they are a challenge” (as cited in Ehrenfreund, 2015). Allowing children and teens to choose what they read and then vote on their favorites demonstrates to readers that their choice is important and that it has value. There is great power in giving young readers the opportunity to say “yes, I liked this book” or “no, I didn’t like this book, and let me tell you why” (Wilson 2016).

The “A”

The award itself is built upon a positive interaction with books. The



Brianna Hoffman is president of WLA.

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variety, collaboration, and pure joy of the award builds a community of readers. Librarians and teachers in the PNLA region have the opportunity to work together to nominate titles and promote the award. PNLA has many resources available (for free!) for teachers and librarians who want to know more about the current and past nominees and past winners. Past winners and nominees are also a great source for reader's advisory or for teachers looking for their next class read aloud.


PNLA has a well-documented nomination process that includes not only popularity with readers as part of their criteria, but also "reading enjoyment; reading level; interest level; genre representation; gender representation; racial diversity; diversity of social, political, economic, or religious viewpoints; regional consideration; effectiveness of expression; and imagination" (Krantz and Wilson). PNLA is also committed to including a diverse slate of nominated titles and states that "no title will be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or social view of either the author or the material" as part of their nomination criteria. Nominations are accepted from students, librarians, teachers, and parents from the PNLA member states and provinces. Nominations are not accepted from publishers.

Getting Started with YRCA

This spring, after over 20,000 votes were cast, the 2016 YRCA winners were chosen. 2016 winners include *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein in the Junior division, *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey in the Intermediate division, and *This is What Happy Looks Like* by Jennifer E. Smith in the Senior division. The 2017 nominees were announced in February and are ready to be promoted at your library. Check your library catalogs and make sure you have the nominated titles, promote them with displays and book talks, coordinate programs with other schools and libraries, and see if the titles have book trailers on YouTube. Voting for the 2017 winners will take place through April 15, 2017. Each participating institution can design their own ballots or download the one provided on the PNLA YRCA website. Paper ballots can be compiled and sent to each state or province's YRCA representative by mail or email. This year, voters will also be able to vote online for the first time in the YRCA's long history. Participating institutions are encouraged to promote the online voting option and encourage children and teens to use their devices or the library's computers to cast their vote directly.

The PNLA YRCA website is a wonderful resource for information and materials for the YRCA. A particular highlight is the YRCA Montana website, created by Montana YRCA representative and Polson Middle School Teacher-Librarian LouAnne Krantz. Krantz has included access to several documents including nominee book covers for promotion, ballots, bookmarks, and even spine labels.

Along with these documents, she encourages people to "feel free to use any or all of them...change them...share them..." Krantz has also created an Animoto video that highlights 2016's YRCA winners and introduces the 2017 nominees.

One of the main goals of the Pacific Northwest Library Association is to promote increased communication, joint advocacy, open debate, networking and support, and information sharing through its many special projects and initiatives. The Young Reader's Choice Award is the epitome of that collaboration. I encourage you to check out the program and look into ways that you can get involved in not only promoting the nominees to your patrons and students, but how you can get become involved in PNLA as a whole. 

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Linking the Washougal Community through Our Libraries

by Hillary M. Marshall

Washougal, Washington is a tight-knit community that cares about its residents. Set on the banks of the Columbia River and aptly named the “Gateway to the Gorge,” Washougal is a unique town that combines local library resources to provide our grades 6-12 students with extraordinary learning opportunities. The Fort Vancouver Public Library (FVRL) has a small branch in Washougal, humming with programming for our tween and teen community, due to the leadership of branch librarian, Rachael Ries.

In 2013, I was newly hired as the only certificated librarian in the Washougal School District to oversee the district’s three elementary, two middle school, one alternative high school, and one high school libraries. My office and most of my teaching responsibility reside at Washougal High School (WHS), which has just over 1,000 students at WHS and a library collection with approximately 8,200 resources. Of course, with a limited budget and collection development needs that exceed those finances, I reached out to the FVRL Washougal branch hoping to supplement our budget resulting in a plethora of collaboration from the professional relationship that Ms. Ries and I built.

Annually, FVRL publicizes and runs a Clark County tween and teen writing contest called Imagined Ink. For the final awards banquet, they bring in a Young Adult author to talk about their work and award Middle School and High School writing awards. For the past several years, Washougal wasn’t represented very well. Ms. Ries wanted to boost enthusiasm, getting students from Washougal to enter this writing contest. In 2014, the public library selected author Blythe Woolston as their guest speaker. Ms. Ries jumped on the opportunity by asking her director if we could host Ms. Woolston at Washougal High School for two author assemblies and a special author luncheon. We were ecstatic that it was approved, and our collaboration flourished. I took on the responsibility of publicizing these unique author assemblies to the WHS Faculty and coordinating her visit at the high school. The two school assembly presentations really touched some young budding authors and surprised students with outrageous, creative thinking and humor. Ms. Ries and I created an additional contest




Rachel Ries, Lena Hunsbedt, Trinity Gossett, Blythe Woolston (seated), Rebecca Muir, Raquel Garcia, and Fran McCarty.

for interested students to have a catered lunch with the author. Six students had either entered the Imagine Ink contest or read *Black Helicopters* and wrote a review. Four of them met grade expectations and had the opportunity to have a catered lunch with Ms. Woolston. She truly captured each student’s attention and spent time listening to their interests, making them each feel very special. It was an experience that will stay with these students for some time.

As a result of this collaboration, I was asked by the FVRL library to be an Imagined Ink writing judge for this year’s competition. The contest finished October 2, 2016 and the winners were announced October 22, 2016.

From the success of the Imagine Ink/author visit collaboration, WHS Keepers of the Library club, along with advisor Fran McCarty, welcomed Ms. Ries to their bimonthly meetings. Ms. Ries used our high school students’ ideas to create Teen Programming at the FVRL Washougal branch. The Keepers club then took it upon themselves to publicize the program at the high school and attend several of the events. This has been a very popular programming piece. Ms. Ries has now developed a FVRL Teen Council at the Washougal branch. Again, we collaborated by conducting a formal interview process last spring, having all interested students in a leadership position on the Teen Council go through those interviews. This newly formed Teen Council will now plan and run special Teen offerings throughout the school year.

Not only has our collaboration flourished, but it has branched out and now includes our art teacher, Mr. Evan Rumble. Mr. Rumble and Ms. Ries have combined efforts by sharing his teaching talents with their Fall Art programming which led to a partnership with our Washougal Arts Council. The Washougal Art and Cultural Alliance (WACA) has agreed to approach local businesses and find space where teens may display their art in public. Art will be rotated on a monthly basis in conjunction with the Art and Music program at the high school’s Blue Note Cafe.

This is the reality and future of library collaboration in Washougal, Washington. As a result, our students are getting exposure to our community and likewise, our community, is becoming intertwined in our schools. 

Hillary M. Marshall is a library media specialist with Washougal High School.

Books A'Sail – A Book Group on the High Seas

by Andrea Gough

The book groups I typically facilitate would fit squarely within the expected stereotypes: a varied group of library patrons in a meeting room; or a group of friends in someone's home drinking wine. In September 2016, however, I hosted a most adventurous book club: an assorted group of readers onboard a 160-foot tall ship schooner sailing around the San Juan Islands.

Built in 1924 for heirs of the Johnson & Johnson family, the *Schooner Zodiac* saw life as a leisure boat and later as a working boat in the Bay Area. Under new ownership and restored to her original beauty in the mid-1970s, she was awarded a spot on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Each year the *Zodiac* takes passengers on multi-day public sails around the San Juan Islands, some general and some themed, such as visiting breweries or learning the history of the region. Our three days in September was for book lovers.

I chose two books for us to discuss, one each fiction and nonfiction: *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki and *The Curve of Time* by M. Wylie Blanchet. I wanted to find books that related in some way to the area, so that readers could connect their onboard ship experiences to the books we discussed below deck in the evenings. This turned out to be more difficult than I anticipated — where is the great body of San Juan Island literature? Nevertheless, these two titles — both set slightly north, in Desolation Sound around Vancouver Island — served us well. We discussed the way geography informs our perspectives and opinions; evolving

perspectives on First Nations peoples; the effects of first person narratives on the reader; and much more. In addition to these planned, formal discussions, I was delighted to find that readers on a ship are like readers everywhere: happy to gather into small groups and talk about the great stuff they've read.



All aboard the *Schooner Zodiac*.

While we discussed books as a group at night, and more general conversation sparked between readers in spare moments, we spent our days helping out. *The Zodiac* is a training vessel, which means that anyone who wanted to could take turns learning navigation, keeping bow watch, or at the helm (this last was with close supervision, naturally). When there was wind and we could sail, we each had a station where we would help out. This is the moment where I could try to add some sailing lingo and tell you exactly what we did, but honestly I forgot as soon as they told me the names of the ropes and the sail that I was on. Instead, I just have a great debt of gratitude to intern Kat Stark and the rest of the helpful crew, who each time we needed to do something were patient and enthusiastic in re-explaining my role to me (usually, letting out or taking in slack on a rope, and not getting my hand so close to the pulley that I risked losing fingers. I'm pleased to say I

retain 10 whole fingers, mostly due to Kat's diligence).

The great joy of a book club is seeing a literary work from an angle you may not have found on your own. For three days on the *Schooner Zodiac*, I think our group achieved that goal. 📖

Andrea Gough is a reader services librarian at the Seattle Public Library. She enjoys reading and traveling, and is pleased to add schooner to her list of plane, train, car and dogsled adventures.

WLA Communiqué

In 2015, **Kitsap Regional Library** received a three-year National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Libraries to design and implement a sustainable STEM programming model for public libraries. The project, entitled Make Do Share, collects tools and resources to support staff in planning, facilitating and improving STEM programs for and with youth. KRL created a downloadable [guide](#) to serve as a primary resource for those interested in STEM programming for and with youth and have committed to partnering with two small and/or rural public libraries to support the planning and implementation of sustainable STEM programming in those communities.

Whitman County Rural Library District was a 2016 recipient of the Washington State University President's Leadership Award for Community Organizations. The library was recognized for partnering with the university for afterschool programs with students from The Center for Civic Engagement and community economic development activities with WSU's Rural Design Initiative. Youth services manager Sheri Miller accepted the award from Interim President Danial Bernardo (pictured below) at an awards ceremony held last May in Pullman.



On August 8th, **The Seattle Public Library** launched [Playback](#), an online collection that showcases and shares current local music for free. A jury of music community leaders and library staff selected 100 albums that represent a diverse array of musical styles to create a soundtrack for Seattle. Anyone can stream the albums for free, and SPL cardholders can download and keep songs in the Playback collection. Selected artists received a \$200 honorarium.

Brian Hulsey, South Whatcom Manager for the **Whatcom County Library System**, was selected from over 3,000 applicants to be one of 50 to represent U.S. libraries at the 2016 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference as one of the 2016 U.S. Committee Fellows. He recently attended the IFLA Conference in Columbus, OH this August.

King County Library System recently hosted Congressman John Lewis (pictured below), author Andrew Aydin and artist Nate Powell, the creators of the award-winning *March* trilogy, three graphic novels about Lewis, an iconic figure from the civil rights movement. It was standing room only and has been [archived](#) and accessible via YouTube.



Susan Hildreth returns to the northwest as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence for the **University of Washington** Information School. Hildreth is former director of both The Seattle Public Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Studies in Washington D.C. In her new position, which is funded by a 10-year, \$1.4 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Hildreth will focus on the future of public libraries.



Although the Mariners failed to make the playoffs (again), 11 strong from **King County Library System's** Mobile Services department (pictured above) showed up at Safeco Field one recent evening (tickets were \$5 each!) and cheered the team on so well the team began a final 8-game winning streak! AND we even got a big blurb up on the reader's board overhead! 📖

Read This Book

Reviews and Opinions by Teacher-Librarians

by the Puget Sound Council for the Review of Children's and Young Adult Literature

Let's Get "Series-ous": Feeding the Need to Know – Big Ideas in Small Bites

If you've been looking at the articles and ads online, in various trade publications, or in library professional publications like *School Library Journal*, *VOYA*, or *Booklist*, I'm sure that you've made note of the number of nonfiction titles that being published for children and young adults. A 2015 article in Publishers Weekly, "[Is Children's Nonfiction Having Its Moment?](#)" by Judith Rosen looked at this trend. Nonfiction publishing is nothing new, but the emphasis on Common Core has certainly made more publishers look to schools for niche markets that they could develop. The readers and reviewers of Puget Sound Council have certainly noticed the escalation in nonfiction publishing and diversity of topics, treatments, and additional features now being included in the books they are reviewing.

Series about coding, alternate points of view in history, breakdowns of complicated philosophies, higher level math, the branches of science, societal and national issues, histories, and geography are now being given treatments that make them accessible to all students pre-k through 12 and above. Selections targeting upper elementary and middle school grades have been especially rich. Many of these titles also work well in high school because they do not talk down to their audience; they chunk information into manageable portions that help English language learners as well as other students who need a modified reading level. Often they are richly illustrated with well-captioned period photos and detailed drawings, use callouts, and provide thought-provoking questions to guide student readers. Series allow a subject like WWI, fracking, or animal extinction, to become a group of accessible ideas to follow, ponder, and excite student questions instead of an overwhelming sea of data that seems endless and unmanageable. Good series link the major ideas/events/concepts throughout the volumes offering constructive redundancy to cement learning and draw parallels. Hence let's get "Series-ous" and check out these books!

Primary Level: Flora, Brett, SERIES: *First Facts: Get to Know Reptiles*, Capstone Books, Grades: K-3, © 2015.

Recommended by Lona Sepessy, Teacher-Librarian, Arrowhead Elementary.

First Facts books appeal and are appropriate for many elementary grade levels with larger fonts, well-written text and plentiful white

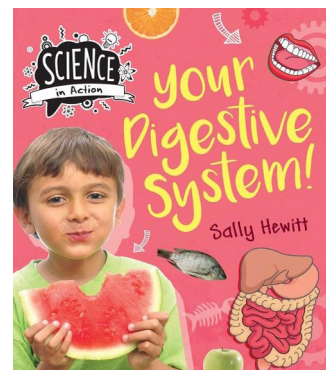
space, crisp labeled photographs, additional fact boxes and glossary words defined on the same page where they appear. Chapters contain the basic information necessary for animal reports including their physical appearance, habitats and range, food and life cycle, threats and ways they are being protected.

Pictures depicting typical behavior, (an interesting fact, e.g. in *Komodo Dragons*, the book concludes with a photograph of a komodo dragon swallowing a wild boar and the factual tidbit that not only can they eat half their body weight in less than 20 minutes, but also can regurgitate the food if they need to run from danger). The titles include glossary, Read More, Publisher portal to websites, index and two Common Core questions are included. One question is recall based and one requires some integration and comparison. In the series: *Get to Know Chameleons*; *Get to Know Geckos*; *Get to Know Gila Monsters*; *Get to know Komodo Dragons*.

Primary Level: Hewitt, Sally, SERIES: *Science in Action: My Body*, Quarto Books, Grades: 2-4, © 2016.

Recommended by Kathryn Cook, Teacher-Librarian, Adelaide and Lake Grove Elementaries.

The short information filled paragraphs, one or two to a page will answer such questions such as "What happens to food in your stomach?" "How long are your intestines?" or, "What does our liver do?" Filled with bright color photographs and diagrams, all clearly labeled, side notes, and suggested fun activities that will illustrate some of the bodily functions discussed. In the series: *Your Bones*; *Your Brain*; *Your Digestive System*; *Your Heart*.



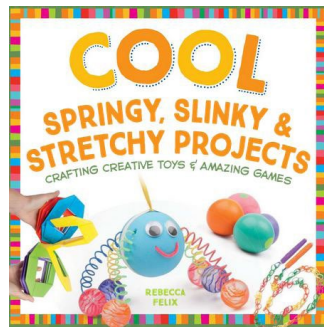
Reviewers are members of the Puget Sound Council for Review of Children's and Young Adult Literature.

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Elementary Level: Felix, Rebecca, SERIES: *How-To-Library: Cool Toys & Games*, Checkerboard Library, an imprint of Abdo, Grades 3-6, © 2016.

Recommended by Lona Sepessy, Teacher-Librarian, Arrowhead Elementary

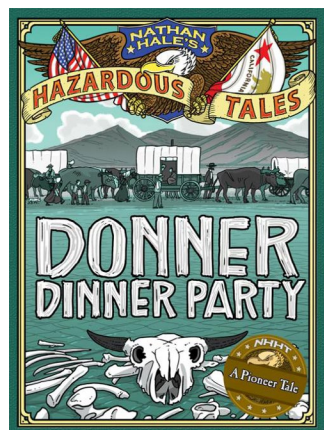
The series is based on the premise that kids can make their own fun (like they used to do). Step-by-step directions supported by photos are given to show kids how to create one-of-a-kind toys and games along with materials lists, and extra tips and tricks get kids started. A short history of items profiled is discussed in each volume. For example, in *Cool Springy, Slinky and Stretchy Projects*, the history of a springy, bouncy ball is highlighted by a call-out box with map and caption. Aligned to Common Core and state standards, it highlights maker spaces and has projects that are adaptable for individual or group projects with supervision. Titles in the series *Cool Action Figures & Dolls*; *Cool Board Games*; *Cool Construction & Building Blocks*; *Cool Crayons, Chalks & Paints*; *Cool Doughs, Putties, Slimes & Goops*; *Cool Springy, Slinky & Stretchy Projects*.



Middle School: Hale, Nathan, SERIES: *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*, Amulet Books, Grades 5-8, © 2012-2016.

Recommended by Sarah Threlkeld, Teacher-Librarian, Scenic Hill Elementary.

Bonus points for the author playing up his name in this set of 6 (so far) of weird and wild stories and biographies from American history. Double bonus points for using a graphic novel format. Triple bonus points for making Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War hero swallowed by a giant, magical history book (just before his hanging), which imbued him with full knowledge of the future and returned him to the gallows so he could recount the story of the war to a British soldier and a slightly dimwitted hangman and then go on to move forward in time to recount and enhance other stories. A representative title in the series, *Donner Dinner Party*, shows the specific bad decisions that led to the party's predicament in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and focuses on the struggles of the Reed family to tell the true story of the

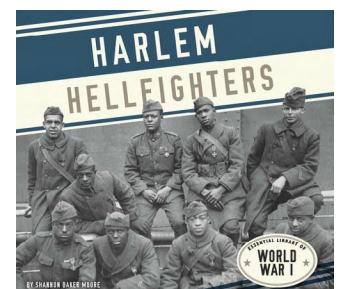


catastrophic journey. CAVEAT: This is enhanced historical fiction and falls into that nebulous narrative nonfiction category because of conjecture about some of the events that Hale could not have been a part of. Back matter includes brief biographies, bibliographies, timelines, maps on endpapers, and other features as needed by individual volumes. In the series: *Alamo All-Stars: Big Bad Ironclad!*; *A Civil War Steamship Showdown*; *Donner Dinner Party*; *One Dead Spy: The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy*; *Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood: A World War I Tale*; *The Underground Abductor*.

Middle/High School: various authors, SERIES: *Essential Library of WWI*, Abdo, Grades 8-12, © 2016.

Recommended by Eve Datisman, Teacher-Librarian, Port Angeles High School, Retired, not dead.

World War I is more than a set of tragic alignments and treaties sparked by the assassination of a minor royal by a tubercular anarchist and a groan-worthy recitation of dates, battles, and generals accompanied by horrific images of gassed troops. For most high school students the subject is overwhelming; but this series focuses on more than the traditional selection for the history book as evidenced by the titles in the series: *Christmas Truce of 1914*; *Harlem Hellfighters*; *Medicine on the Battlefield*; *Trench Warfare*; *Women in World War I*; *World War I Aftermath*; *World War I Aftermath*; *World War I Battles*; *World War I Causes*; *World War I Leaders*; *World War I Weapons*. Each title not only describes events or but also includes the experiences and contributions of the soldiers, the nurses, the people at home all with narrative text and well-chosen illustrations and historical photographs (some in color), and other primary source material. Call outs featuring prominent people with biographical information and importance to the topic add to the narrative texture of the titles. Features in all volumes include a glossary, a selected bibliography, maps, websites, source notes, and an index, plus a timeline, and essential facts grouped into key players, impact on the war, impact on society, and quote, e.g. from *Harlem Hellfighters*, "As anyone who recalls the assurances of 1917 and 1918, I confess personally a deep sense of disappointment of poignant pain, that a great country in time of need should promise so much and afterward perform so little." Emmett Scott, assistant to Secretary of War Newton Baker.



NOTE: There is another Essential Library series by Abdo covering WWII using the same format. It's easy to get these into the hands of students with a personal recommendation because they resonate well with them; however, the volumes would fly off the shelves by themselves if the covers were more attractive to browsers. 📖

I'd Rather Be Reading

by David Wright



That's My Story, And I'm Sticking to It.

Human beings would not exist as such, without story. For better and worse, story is what we're made of. The ability to create and use stories is our species' defining characteristic. Not walking upright or opposable thumbs; other hominids had been enjoying these features for over a million years, and even homo sapiens struggled along for over a hundred millennia without putting much distance between ourselves and other animals.

“When a person can grasp the truths embodied in both *Between the World and Me* and *Hillbilly Elegy*, they have already discovered common ground between red and blue, black and white.”

evident realities: nation, station, language, gender, race and creed. Church and state; money and love. We soon identify the major players and themes, and we learn how to inhabit our own role, with commitment and believability, as naturally as walking upright. Our story develops and grows in expected and unexpected ways, but it is rare for us to step out of the plot entirely, or for very long. Our terms for that are especially fancy: epiphany, transcendence, nirvana, the sublime!

Around 70,000 years ago, we seem to have learned a new trick. Not words, but a way of using words in sequence to create something new: a narrative. We learned to combine what had been discrete symbols into causal chains that seemed to capture the world and make sense of it in ways that could be learned, repeated, shared and passed along. It was a revolutionary new kind of meaning, and it spread like wildfire. Swiftly, our abilities and technologies flourished, our numbers grew and expanded. We created culture, making things up that hadn't existed before, new and seemingly more real realities.

The invention of writing (and libraries) was certainly a major upgrade, but by the time this came along some seven thousand years ago, story was already deep in our bones. Just as story making had dragged our dreaming into the bright light of consciousness, so our reliance on story had altered the very way our brains work, making it almost impossible to perceive the world outside the lens of narrative.

We have awareness of our own beginnings and endings, and understand implicitly that what passes between is a story. The life of our family and of our society is similarly perceived, stretching back to the dim recesses of time and forward into every imaginable future. We parse the language of nature, and from smaller and smaller bits of meaning we build larger and more cohesive stories about what is really going on here.

Each of us learns what kind of story we're living in early on from our parents, teachers, and all the other storytellers that surround us. We learn the features of our narrative as though they were self-

Right now in the polarized political and social life of our nation and our world, there are large groups of people who regard each other warily and with enmity, each convinced that the other is hopelessly benighted, trapped in some basic misunderstanding or outlandish fallacy about the world and how it works. We have basic disagreements about what the story is. Most of us arrived at our own understandings of the world when we were quite young. We have spent a lifetime inhabiting that particular story, reinforcing its foundations and furnishing its rooms. The depth of animosity between these divergent worldviews is directly related to the depth of our belief in, and commitment to, our story.

How did our stories get so far apart? No doubt there are many factors, ranging from the decentralization of our media to socioeconomic and racial disparities to outmoded tribalism and mere geography. It is unlikely that we will be successful in helping to narrow these gaps in understanding if our only strategy is to denounce the truth of each other's stories. The facts aside, stories don't really work that way. They are even more closely held than beliefs.

We would be well advised to seek out those places where our stories intersect and overlap, and work from there. What stories do we share, and where do they diverge? Promoting a plurality of stories and experiences – including those we disagree with or don't understand – can help to redefine the discussion itself. When a person can grasp the truths embodied in both Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* and J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy*, they have already discovered common ground between red and blue, black and white.

Story got us into this mess. Can stories get us out? One Book, One Country, anyone? 📖

David Wright is a reader services librarian at the Central Branch of The Seattle Public Library, a frequent speaker and trainer at library conferences, and a regular contributor to Booklist, The Seattle Times, and other publications.

Dispatches from Swellville

by Darcy McMurtery



Agnes T. Gollywhopper

From: gollywhopper.agnes@swellvillelibrary.org

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016, 4:04 PM

To: brianandtrinaswedding@yourmail.com

Subject: Meeting Room Use Application on December 3

Dear Trina,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! I wanted to write to clarify a few things before you book our meeting room for your wedding. You've requested the entire day, which we are not able to accommodate. Between library programs and other public groups, it's already being used. We have Esperanto story time in the morning, and the Friends of the Library knitting and karaoke circle in the afternoon. This leaves the meeting room open from noon until 3:00.

It was very thoughtful of you to include your wedding ceremony plan with your application, but I feel I need to clarify a few things if you are going to use our room. First, the fire twirlers will be unable to perform in your ceremony as it will be in direct violation of our fire code. Second, the releasing of doves will not be permitted in the library. This will not only be a health hazard; it goes against our policy of animals in the library. Third, you mentioned a fully catered meal and bar for your ceremony. The Food and Beverage Policy outlines what may be served in our library meeting room. Unfortunately, grass fed brisket and small batch distillery bourbon is not acceptable for the library. Finally, and most important, the library meeting rooms are open for everyone. This means that your wedding and ceremony must be considered open to the public. This means that we cannot exclude the people on the list you provided such as Brian's ex-girlfriend, his fantasy football league and your future mother-in-law. They are welcome patrons in the Swellville Library and we will not exclude them.

I know you will be disappointed that we cannot accommodate your wedding in the library in the way you have envisioned. I do appreciate that you included your story of how you met in the Swellville Public Library. I agree, that the auto repair section is an especially romantic place in our collection.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you are interested in booking the meeting room on December 3, noon to 3:00 for a scaled-down ceremony and reception. If you are not interested, reference staff would be happy to provide a list of other local sites such as the Elks Lodge or Bailey's Grub-N-More for your upcoming nuptials.

Most Sincerely,

Agnes T. Gollywhopper

Agnes T. Gollywhopper

Manager, Swellville Public Library

WLA Thanks Our Institutional & Business Members

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Primary Source
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Seattle Times: Newspapers in Education
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Friends of the Jefferson County Library
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Humanities Washington
Lake Stevens School District

Mount Vernon School District
Orbis Cascade Alliance
Puyallup School District
Spokane Public Library Foundation
Sustainable NE Seattle

Institutional Members

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Big Bend CC Bonaudi Library
Central Skagit Rural Partial County Library District
City of Richland - Library
Clark College Library
Clover Park Technical College Library
Columbia County Rural Library District
Eastern Washington University Libraries
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Alki

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